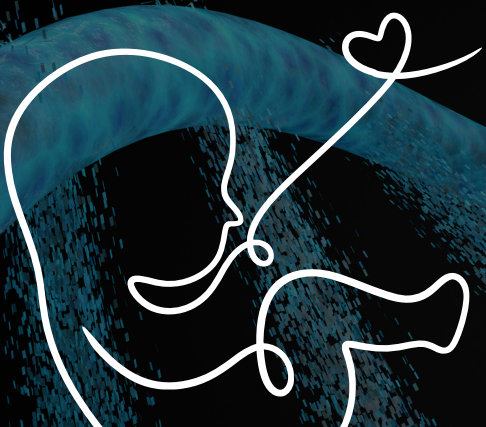




# MIDWIVES IN GENOMICS

ISSUE 4 | MARCH 2026

WELCOME TO OUR

## *Newsletter*



### what's inside

- The Generation Study: What's happened so far
- Maternal Care Bundle
- News & events
- Learning resources
- Did you know?



### welcome message

Spring brings a sense of renewal, and in that spirit, we are delighted to welcome you to the Spring edition of the Midwives in Genomics Newsletter. This season, we highlight opportunities to support your professional development and strengthen the impact of your essential work.

One key focus is our upcoming North Thames Genomic Medicine Service event on Preconception Precision Health, which aligns closely with the aims of the Maternal Care Bundle (MCB). The MCB sets best-practice standards across five areas of clinical care to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity, and inequalities across England. Our preconception genomics event explores how emerging genomic technologies and therapies can contribute to these goals by improving the identification of inherited conditions and supporting safer, more personalised maternal care.

*Tina & Yvonne*



# the generation study: what's happened so far?

To mark Rare Disease Day on 28 February, we're highlighting key updates from The Generation Study and the progress being made to improve early diagnosis and treatment of rare genetic conditions in newborn babies.



**Dominic Studart** and **Yvonne Muwalo**, Generation Study Regional Results Co-Ordinators for the NT GMS, work closely with NHS England, Genomics England and maternity units across North Thames. They support clinical teams to ensure "condition suspected" results are communicated effectively and that babies and families receive the right care and support.

## How does the Generation Study differ from traditional newborn screening when it comes to identifying rare diseases?

Traditional newborn screening screens for 10 conditions. The Generation Study uses whole genome sequencing to look for genetic variations known to cause rare disease and aims to validate whether WGS can be used to **screen for more than 200 rare conditions**.

## The study started over a year ago — what has been achieved so far?

Since the study began, over 41,000 babies have been recruited. **More than 30,000 samples have been taken** and 28,000 results returned to families, with 47 trusts and 73 hospital sites now participating.

Continue reading on LinkedIn...



## RECRUITING SITES IN THE NORTH THAMES REGION

- Royal London Hospital
- Whipps Cross
- Newham
- Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea
- St Mary's Hospital
- Chelsea and Westminster
- West Middlesex
- West Hertfordshire
- Whittington
- Southend
- Broomfield

## LEARN MORE



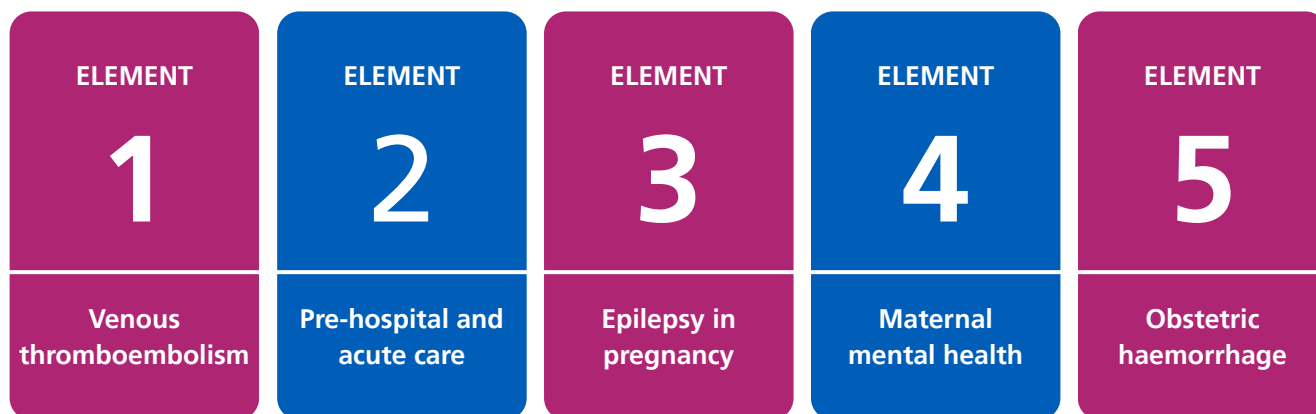
Scan the QR code to learn more about the Generation Study and how it's shaping the future of newborn health.

# maternal care bundle

NHS England recently published the Maternal Care Bundle which sets out best practice standards across five areas of clinical care, for implementation by NHS providers and commissioners across England. Its aim is to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, and to reduce inequalities in these outcomes.

Latest MBRRACE-UK data (2021–2023) shows maternal mortality has increased by 21% since 2009–2011, or 7% excluding COVID-19 related deaths. Alongside coronavirus, rising maternal age, obesity and pre-existing medical conditions are making care more complex. Stark inequalities persist: Black women died at more than twice the rate of white women, and women living in the most deprived areas at almost twice the rate of those in the least deprived areas. MBRRACE-UK assessors felt that improvements in care could have made a difference for 45% of the women who died during this period, highlighting the urgent need for more consistent, high-quality and equitable care.

The MCB has been developed with frontline clinicians, service users and national stakeholder organisations including Royal Colleges, regulatory bodies, professional societies and charities. In this first version, it establishes a baseline of best practice in 5 areas of care associated with higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity. The 5 elements are:



The MCB requires coordinated action across NHS services and takes a whole-system approach. This first version focuses on setting a minimum standard nationwide, with future versions intended to build and improve on these foundations.

Scan the QR code to read the full publication.

LEARN MORE



## news & events

We are excited to be hosting an event on preconception precision health: integrating genomics for optimised maternal outcomes. We have expert updates on epilepsy, cardiac disease haemoglobinopathies and rare disease genetics. The event will also address health inequalities and equitable access to testing and care.

**North Thames  
Genomic Medicine Service**



### Preconception Precision Health: Integrating Genomics for Optimised Maternal Outcomes

Study day for Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors, Doctors, Primary Care and Allied Health Professionals



#### WHY ATTEND?

- Learn about the latest in preconception genomics and its impact on maternal health
- Get practical tips on identifying inherited conditions and using care toolkits
- Hear expert updates on cardiac, epilepsy, sickle cell, thalassaemia, and rare disease genetics
- Explore future genetic testing and addressing health inequalities
- Connect with leading clinicians and share best practice

#### PROGRAMME

The final programme will be released in due course, along with details of expert speakers.

 27 March 2026, Friday

 9:00am-5:00pm

 Woburn House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HQ

 NHS healthcare professionals with an interest / involved in preconception care including Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors, Doctors, Primary Care clinicians and Allied Health Professionals

#### FREE REGISTRATION



[Book your free place!](https://norththamesgenomics.nhs.uk)

[norththamesgenomics.nhs.uk](https://norththamesgenomics.nhs.uk)

# learning resources

For both novices and experts alike, the following links are to the educational resources for personal learning and for use 'In the Clinic':

## GENOMICS 101



## GENOTES



## GENOMIC QUESTION TIME



## GENOMICS EDUCATION PROGRAMME



## did you know?

### Genomics Fun Facts

If **all** the **DNA** in your cells were laid out in a line, it would reach to the **sun** and back around **70 times**

### DNA distance

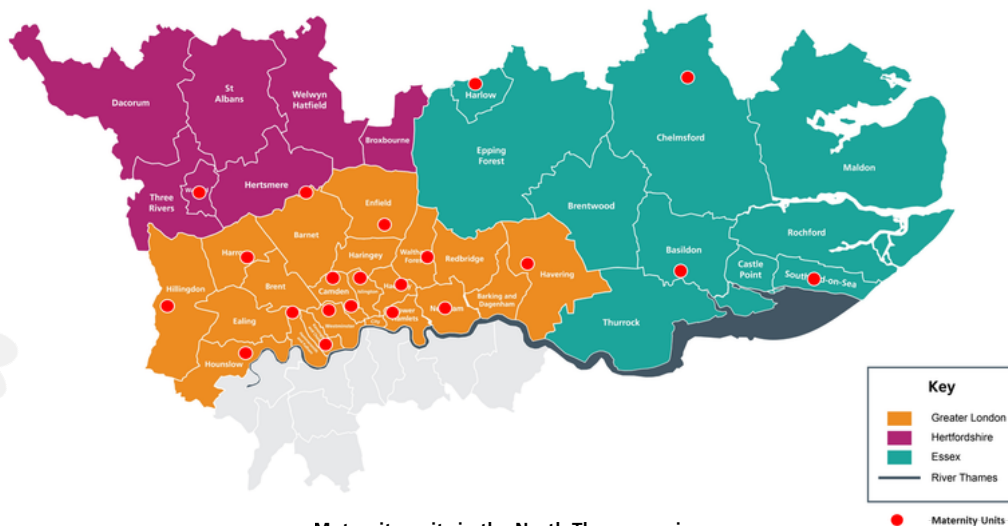
An illustration of a young girl with dark skin and pigtails, wearing a red dress, holding a yellow book and a green ball. A large DNA double helix is shown next to her, extending towards a bright yellow sun in the background.

# about north thames genomic medicine service



## who are we

North Thames Genomic Medicine Service (NT GMS) is one of the seven regional teams set up by the NHS Genomic Medicine Service. We work with all healthcare providers in our region, and with patients and the public to build trust in genomics and support the multi-professional workforce to use genomics safely, effectively, and efficiently, and respond to the NHS strategy for embedding genomics in the NHS.



Maternity units in the North Thames region

We want to keep this conversation going, please distribute to your colleagues and let us know your thoughts about this newsletter or if you want to contribute to a future issue. If you are interested in joining the network, please contact us: Yvonne Muwalo at [yvonne.muwalo@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:yvonne.muwalo@gosh.nhs.uk) or Tina Prendeville at [tina.prendeville@nhs.net](mailto:tina.prendeville@nhs.net).



NT GMS Website:  
Genomics in Nursing and Midwifery



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