

Description

Book Review: Preterm Birth: A Handbook for Midwives by Naomi Carlisle and Jenny Carter

Published: 2025

Publishers: Routledge

Paperback

134 pages

RRP: £36.99

ISBN: 978-1-032-46193-9

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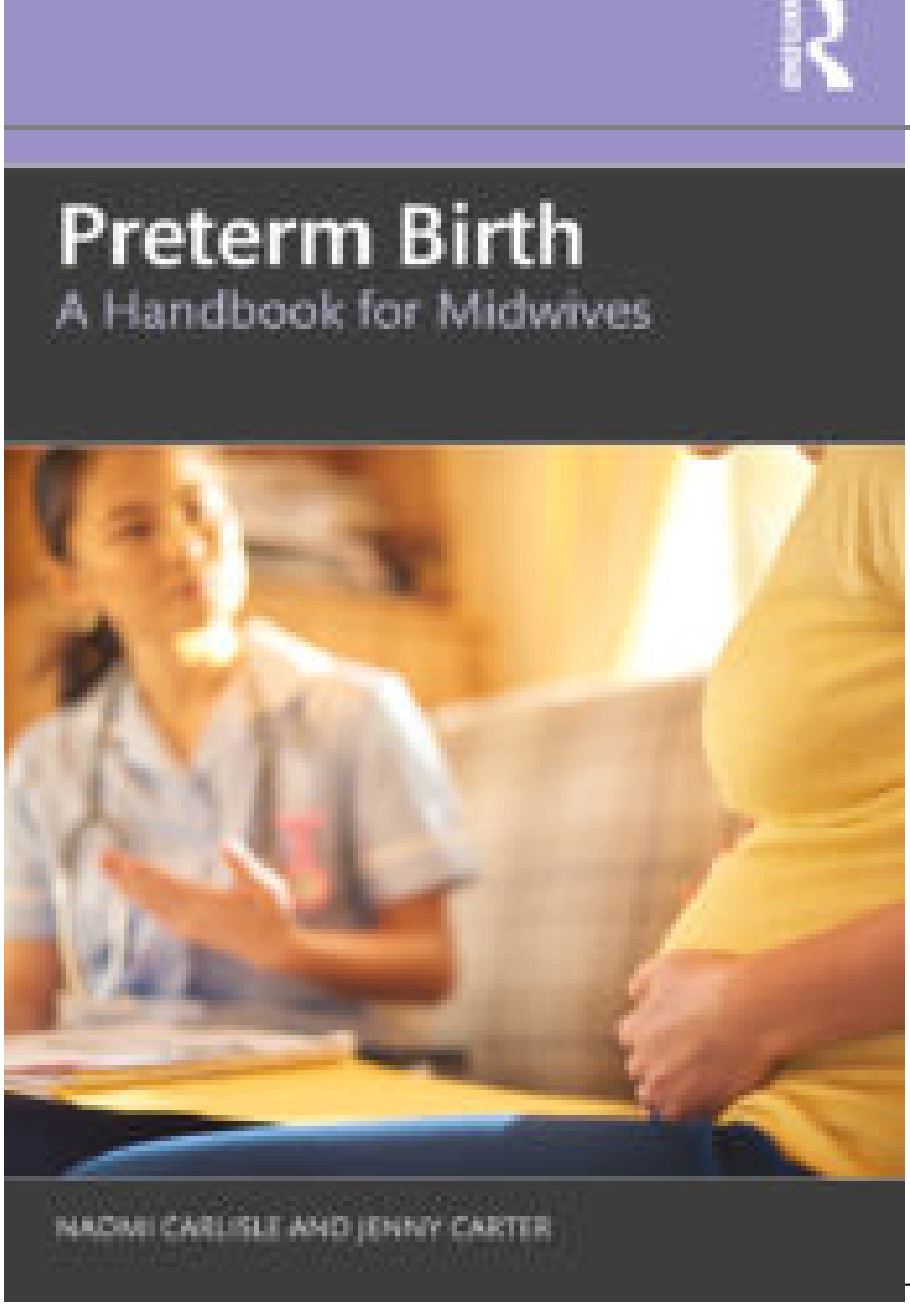

This comprehensive and clear handbook should be an essential on every midwife's reading list. The authors provide a clear structure of learning and follow the chronological order of any midwife's thinking and the journey of care that they provide, from assessment to care plan.

Pre-term birth is incredibly complex, and the midwives' role in caring for women who experience this type of birth continues to grow and develop. The simple explanations of the physiology behind assessment, diagnosis and treatment will build a foundation of knowledge for midwives at all stages in their careers.

The inclusion of current NHS initiatives, practices and policies is especially helpful, with direction given on how to utilise tangible tools that are easy to implement in practice, such as the QUiPP app and the Saving Babies Lives Care Bundle.

The chapters on assessment are particularly relevant to midwives, who are responsible for referring to obstetric colleagues and ultimately into specialist clinics for those with a history of pre-term birth. The book provides flow charts and tables of clearly laid out information that are digestible and could be easily used in clinical practice as a quick reference guide.

The authors pay special attention to balancing practical pre-term birth knowledge with the experiences of women and the sensitivity that this topic requires. They include accounts from women, and they also approach the information around care of babies who are significantly premature, or less than 24 weeks with clarity and compassion. I personally really appreciated this aspect of the book as it is something that myself and a number of my colleagues worry about. An explicit step-by-step guide of what is recommended at each gestational age is particularly useful.

Overall, this book was informative, easy to digest and easy to refer back to in practice.

Category

1. Book reviews

Tags

1. early labour
2. pre-term

Date Created
17th March 2025