

Description

Midwifery Continuity of Care, Breastfeeding and Neonatal Hyperbilirubinemia: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Read the June 2025 issue of the newsletter “All You Need to Know About Midwife Continuity of Carer” published by Edinburgh Napier University School of Health and Social Care

Every month the newsletter features a midwifery continuity of carer paper, discuss the implications of the paper for practice, with personal notes from the researcher(s). This month’s paper featuring a Swedish study, highlighting the effect of continuity during the postpartum period.is written by Edinburgh Napier University Student Midwife Brooke Adam.

In brief, a large-scale Swedish study evaluated the impact of **Midwifery Continuity of Care (MCoC)** compared to standard maternity services, using data from **12,096 births** at a university hospital in Stockholm between **January 2019 and August 2021**.

In the **MCoC model**, care was delivered by small teams of four midwives who supported women **continuously** throughout pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period. This included **home or community antenatal visits**, **24/7 availability**, **home-based postnatal care for up to seven days**, and a final check-up at **six to eight weeks**.

In contrast, **standard care** offered no guaranteed familiarity with midwives during birth or the postpartum period, with postnatal care typically limited to the 6–8-week check-up.

Key findings

- Women receiving MCoC were **more likely to exclusively breastfeed** at hospital discharge.
- Newborns in the MCoC group had a **lower risk of hyperbilirubinemia**.

The study highlights the benefits of continuity of midwifery care in promoting breastfeeding and reducing neonatal health risks, reinforcing global evidence in favour of MCoC models.

Click here to read the full report: THE ALL-YOU-NEED-TO-KNOW-ABOUT-MIDWIFE-CONTINUITY-OF-CARER

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