

Qualitative study on pregnancy experiences with multiple pre-existing health conditions: study protocol

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Why is this study needed?



A fifth of pregnant women and birthing people have two or more active long-term health conditions.



They may experience difficulties managing several health conditions and these challenges may increase during pregnancy.



Little research or evidence exists into the experiences or care pathways for individuals who are pregnant with two or more long-term health conditions in the UK NHS.



Without deeper understanding, women and birthing people may not have the best and safest experience of care before, during and after pregnancy, as services have not been designed with their health needs in mind.

Further information and funding



Objective

Experiences

Understand experiences of multiple health conditions in pregnancy for women, birthing people, and their partner

Service Provision

Understand current service provision for affected women and birthing people

Care pathways

Identify key components of maternity care pathways for affected women and birthing people

Public and Patient Involvement

Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) Co-applicants and Advisory Group shaped study design and influence our approach to communication and terminology.

Extensive work to develop our approach to identifying and recruiting women, birthing people and their partners.

Our topic guide includes a range of important subjects identified by our PPI Advisory Group

Interviews with women and birthing people
March – September 2022

Interviews with partners
May – July 2022

Interviews with Health Professionals
June – Nov 2022

Design and Methods

Two-phase qualitative interview study, with:

1) 60 individual interviews with women and birthing people, and 30 partners

2) 30 – 60 individual interviews with NHS professionals

Interviews focus on experiences of pregnancy and maternity care and key pathway components

Sampling

Purposive, guided by public/professional stakeholders and findings from the wider research programme.

Key groups, include those with disabilities or from minority ethnic groups, diverse social, geographical, and service contexts.

Coproduction workshops in the final year of the programme, to bring together interview findings and those from the wider programme to develop recommendations for improvements to care.

Anticipated results

Our research will generate evidence on what matters most to women and birthing people with multiple health conditions in terms of their preparation for, and care during, pregnancy; and long-term healthcare. We will also generate evidence regarding how care is provided, and its limitations

Get Involved

Are you a health professional? Do you care for pregnant women and birthing people with two or more long-term conditions? Would you like to take part in this research to improve NHS policy and practice? Contact us to find out more at: mumpredict@contacts.bham.ac.uk For more information, visit <https://mumpredict.org/>