

Preterm birth prevention: a clinical and educational quality improvement project

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Process of preterm birth risk screening and prevention

Booking

Stage 1

Risk assessment at booking

Audit of **40** consecutive cases of women at booking in June 2022 in order to measure:

- Proportion of women assessed at booking for risk of preterm birth using guidance from SBLCBV2 and stratified to **low**, **intermediate** and **high** risk pathways
- Proportion of women assessed to be at **intermediate** and **high** risk who were referred correctly

Method

Results

Objective

- To investigate the effectiveness of preterm birth prevention within a maternity hospital.
- To ascertain the impact of local educational interventions to increase referrals and accurate risk stratification as per NHS England's Saving Babies Lives Care Bundle Version 2 (SBLCBV2) at booking
 - Available via QR code below

Background – Saving Babies Lives

Appendix F

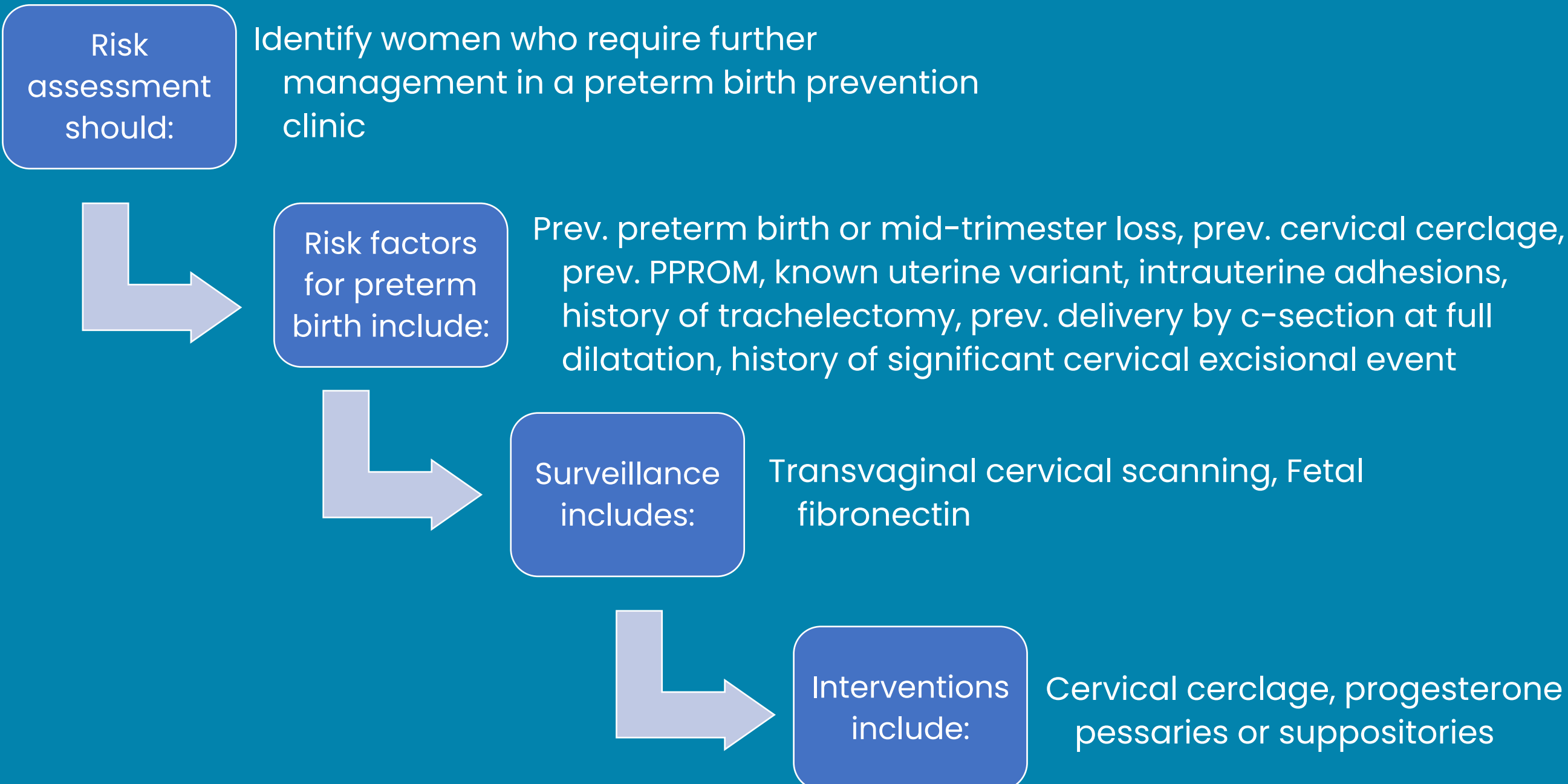


Figure 1: A normal cervical length of 33mm with closed canal and no significant funneling



Figure 2: A shortened cervical canal of 16mm with funneling above the closed portion

Summary

- Effective preterm birth risk assessments are imperative to offer appropriate interventions to high-risk and intermediate-risk patients
- Booking risk assessment tool used by midwives to screen for preterm birth risk needs to mirror the risk assessment in SBLCBV2
- Introduction of a preterm birth risk assessment tool at booking also requires educational interventions – midwives and obstetricians require training in the referral processes to preterm birth clinic

Future work

- Re-examine in 6 months:
 - Patients at booking
 - Patients in preterm birth prevention clinic
 - Preterm deliveries
- Check whether the following interventions have improved the quality of referral to preterm birth clinic:
 - Introduction of training at study days
 - Presentation at regional audit meeting
 - Departmental teaching

References

- NHS England. NHS long term plan. NHS Long Term Plan. Published 2019. <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/online-version/overview-and-summary/>
- NICE. Preterm Labour and Birth NICE Guideline; 2015. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng25/resources/preterm-labour-and-birth-pdf-1837333576645>



Scan for NHS Saving Babies Lives Care Bundle Version 2 full document (Appendix F found on page 61)