

TRANSFER: Threatened preterm birth, Assessment for in utero transfer; 22+0-23+6 weeks' gestation

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Background: TRANSFER was established in response to BAPM recommended risk-based approach for decisions about neonatal care pathways following delivery between 22+0 and 23+6 weeks' gestation. The number of women presenting with threatened preterm birth at this gestation is unknown. This data is essential to facilitate adequate service provision and planning for UK obstetric and neonatal units.

Design: Multicentre prospective service evaluation involving 90 UK maternity units

Eligibility: Threatened preterm birth between 22+0-23+6 weeks' gestation from 17/5/21-30/6/22.

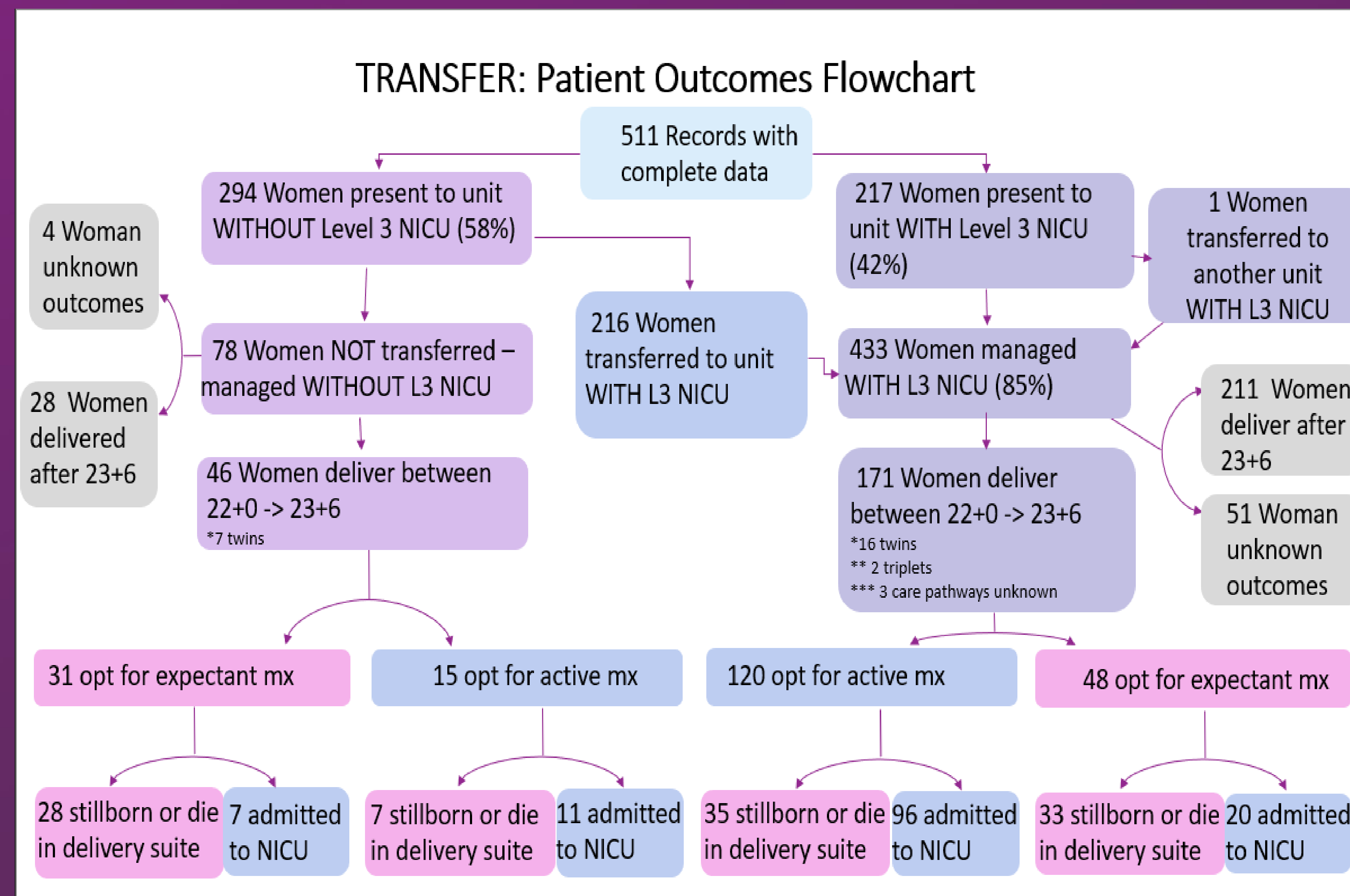
Objectives: Between 22+0-23+6 weeks' gestation:

1. Identify women presenting with threatened preterm birth.
2. Determine number of women presenting outside an obstetric unit with Level 3 NICU.
3. Determine number of women requiring in-utero transfer.
4. Determine number of women who deliver in a unit without Level 3 NICU.



Results:

1. 511 women presented with threatened preterm birth to obstetric units in England, Wales, Scotland and NI between 22+0-23+6 weeks' gestation
2. 294 (58%) women presented to obstetric units without level 3 NICU
3. 217 (42%) of all women required transfer
4. 46 (9%) women delivered between 22+0 -23+6 weeks' gestation in a unit without a Level 3 NICU (15 (33%) of these opted for active care pathway)



PTB prediction (N=514)	FFn	Actim partus	PartoSure	Cervical length recorded	EFW performed
Yes	40 (7.8%)	50 (9.7%)	16 (3.1%)	65 (12.6%)	189 (36.8%)
No	473 (92.0%)	463 (90.1%)	491 (95.5%)	447 (87.0%)	323 (62.8%)
Unknown	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	7 (1.4%)	2 (0.4%)	2 (0.4%)

Bed days: Length of AN hospital stay	No transfer		Transferred	
	Non co-located NICU	Co-located NICU	Non co-located NICU	Co-located NICU
Mean	1.82	4.87	1.29	5.99
1st Quartile	0.50	1.13	0.25	1.82
3rd Quartile	2.06	5.17	1.00	7.39
IQR	1.56	4.04	0.75	5.56
Median	1.00	3.00	0.50	3.00

Conclusions: Women presenting with threatened preterm birth between 22+0-23+6 weeks gestation is higher than anticipated and this is likely to be an under-representation of actual number of patients presenting. This project has provided essential data to facilitate adequate service provision and planning for UK obstetric and neonatal units.

EFW = Estimated fetal weight
FFn= Fetal fibronectin