

Nano-Preterm Special Interest Group

Terms of Reference

General

The **Nano-Preterm** is a Special Interest Group of the British Association for Perinatal Medicine.

Background and rationale

There has been increasing interest internationally in the management of babies born 22-23+6 weeks gestation. Recently published [research in BMJ medicine](#) showed a three-fold increase in the number of babies provided survival focused care and admitted to neonatal units in England and Wales following a change in the 2019 BAPM extreme preterm framework. Similar to most other countries, survival remains poor, with only 20% survival of babies provided survival focused care, and 30% survival of those admitted to neonatal units. A higher proportion of babies with unfavourable characteristics (born earlier in the first half of the week, no antenatal steroids, <500g) were provided survival focused care following changes to the framework. These findings suggest that a more universal rather than risk-stratified or selective approach, as recommended by the BAPM framework, is being followed.

The paucity of research in this new population of babies makes this a very evidence-poor area of neonatal care. There is a need to bring together neonatal professionals to share experiences and drive research that will contribute to advancing knowledge and improving outcomes. As the numbers in each unit and network are small, coming together regularly to learn together means learning can be disseminated more rapidly, which will improve the knowledge of neonatal professionals across the country.

Vision

Nano-preterm's vision is to build a multi-professional community focused on delivering optimal care and improving outcomes for the smallest and most immature babies. This will be achieved by sharing experiences and learning through national and international discussion forums, collaborative audits, quality improvement and research projects, identifying research priorities, and developing frameworks with principles of best practice as the evidence evolves.

Group Membership

Nano-preterm SIG members are professionals caring for extremely preterm born babies. This may include doctors, nurses, advanced nurse practitioners, allied Healthcare Professionals (including dietitians, psychologists, pharmacists, physiotherapist, developmental therapists), midwifery, obstetrics, former patients and families, as well as charities and other relevant organisations. Healthcare professionals must be BAPM members.

Responsibilities

1. To build a collaborative community of multi-professionals that meet regularly to discuss experiences and share learning, with an aim to improve the care and outcomes of the smallest and most preterm babies.
2. To identify areas of uncertainty and challenges which will inform quality improvement initiatives and research recommendations.

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3. To support, facilitate and participate in regional, national and international research that will inform improvements in care and outcomes for the most preterm babies.
4. To organise and support educational and networking events that focus on the care of the smallest and most preterm babies.
5. To develop practical resources that will support neonatal teams to deliver consensus best practice care for babies born at 22 weeks. This may include a consensus framework of principles of best practice.

Formation and structure

The Nano-preterm SIG Executive Committee will consist of representatives from across the country in a range of professional roles including allied health professionals, nurses and doctors. Applications to join the SIG will be advertised to BAPM members. The inaugural appointments will be made by the BAPM executive committee based on application form. Applications will be anonymized before review. Subsequent appointments will be made by member vote.

Committee members are elected for a term of three years, and they can also be re-elected for a second term. The following positions with associated responsibilities will be advertised with open application from BAPM members.

Chair - Suggests and follows through actions from meetings and workstreams if appropriate. Chairs the Committee meetings, ensures responsibilities are on track, and liaises with individual members, BAPM and other relevant organisations. Acts as spokesperson for the SIG.

Meeting Secretary – maintains list of Executive committee members, sets up online meetings, circulates notes after meetings and maintains an action log.

Research lead – to take responsibility for development and maintenance of the research work plan for the group. This may include getting consensus on research recommendations and signposting the latest research to group members.

Education lead – to take responsibility for development and maintenance of the education work plan for the group.

QI Lead - to take responsibility for development and maintenance of the QI work plan for the group.

Regional representatives (One per network)

Responsible for communications between their region and the SIG. Neonatologist, nurse, obstetrician, and midwives can apply.

- East Midlands
- East of England
- North West
- London
- Northern

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- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex
- South West
- Thames Valley & Wessex
- Wales
- West Midlands
- Yorkshire & Humber

Other representatives:

The committee should include at least one of each of the following: neonatologist, medical trainee, ANNP or nurse, AHP, LNU / SCU, obstetrics, midwifery. If these roles are not filled from the regional applications then additional roles on the committee should be created and applications sought from members to represent these roles.

Representatives can apply to take on additional responsibilities for the group including membership and elections, and communications.

Working with the BAPM Office

The Nano-Preterm group will receive administrative support from the BAPM office in the following areas:

- Support with elections of committee members
- Maintaining a record of group membership
- Circulation of communications to group members or wider BAPM membership via email or social media.
- Creation and updates of a group page on the BAPM website. (Group members to provide details for updates.)
- Creation of Teams space for group administration.
- Advice and support on group management and logistics.

Further support:

Where more substantial administrative support is needed (for example to develop a framework or run a webinar) then this should be requested through the BAPM Office. Requests will need to go through the usual channels of BAPM Executive Committee prioritization and approval.

Finances

It is not expected that this group will have any direct costs. Requests for any kind of financial support for this group must not be agreed unless approved by BAPM Office staff.

Meetings

The group will meet virtually 3-4 times per year.



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Accountability and Confidentiality

The Nano-preterm SIG responds to the BAPM Executive Committee and is accountable to the BAPM membership. All work undertaken as part of this group must be delivered in accordance with the professional standards expected of BAPM members. Anything discussed in the group must remain confidential unless agreed otherwise. Any work created as part of this group remains the property of BAPM. All contributions will be correctly acknowledged.

Changes to Terms of Reference

Changes to the terms of reference can be agreed by a majority vote of the committee. The terms of reference are reviewed in full every 3 years.

Last full update: November 2024.