Review of interpreting services within maternity services within the UK

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School/Institute: Health and Social Care

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Project summary

Disparities in UK healthcare outcomes according to ethnicity are well known. The Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquires (MBRRACE) reports identify significantly higher maternal and infant mortality and stillbirths in women from Black and Asian backgrounds. They also highlight language and communication barriers as key contributing factors. Our previous work with ethnic minority communities has also identified communication issues within healthcare as one of their priority areas to be addressed, with interpreter use inconsistent and not always reliable.

As a research team we have successfully been selected as one of the leading consortium members of the NIHR Challenge - Maternity Inequalities programme, within which reducing communication barriers has been identified as a key theme. Capacity building and research in this area is also in line with our strategic ambition and vision.

This internship project specifically aims to review published literature evaluating interpreter services within UK maternity care. Studies of any design will be considered for inclusion including both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

To undertake the review a comprehensive search of peer reviewed literature will be undertaken in databases such as MEDLINE, CINAHL and PsychINFO, with retrieved citations screened independently against the inclusion criteria by the intern and their supervisor. References of all included studies will also be screened for further studies of relevance. Included studies will be critiqued using the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT).

The intern will extract data from the included studies using a standard data extraction sheet. A narrative synthesis of results will be performed considering the acceptability and effectiveness of interpretation services, with consideration given to the type of interpretation service (face to face, online, telephone or digital), as well as the location of care (eg community, hospital outpatient clinic, labour ward) to identify any differences according to delivery method or location.

Specific skills and experience required for this project

Please also refer to the advert on our jobs pages for the person specification for these internships

We are looking for someone with good attention to detail.
Basic familiarity with database searching would be of benefit to the student intern, although not essential as training will be given.
This position would suit someone interested in considering applying for an MSc or PhD in the future.

Project location
Collegiate Campus

Home working may be available

Project delivery
The project can be undertaken as a full-time 6 week project or on a part-time basis equating to the equivalent hours of 6 weeks full-time over a period of time chosen by the student.
Number of days per week will be flexible if the internship is undertaken part time to suit the student's availability, however ideally at least one day a week should be Mon-Wed to coincide with supervisor availability.