Obesity in pregnancy: a study of the impact of maternal obesity on the NHS maternity services

Obesity has implications both for the mother and the infant. In addition to health complications, it also leads to additional care and resources needed from service providers. This study aimed to report on the perceived impact of maternal obesity on maternity services identified through the help of healthcare professionals caring for obese women in pregnancy in the North East region of England.

Overall, five themes were identified relating to maternal obesity based on the conducted interviews: (i) booking appointments, (ii) equipment, (iii) care requirements, (iv) complications and restrictions and (v) current and future management of care. Overall, health professionals described maternal obesity as having a significant impact from a health, financial and resource perspective, significantly impacting service delivery.