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RESEARCH GROUP: PERINATAL AND OBSTETRIC MEDICAL DEVICES: SOLUTIONS FOR EQUITY (PROMISE)

RESEARCH AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS (Work Package 4)

Engage with stakeholders to develop actionable policy and research recommendations to address identified biases in medical device use during maternity care.

We will convene an engaged advisory panel that will include an extended PPI group, our SAB and additional clinicians (midwives, obstetricians, anaesthetists), social scientists, biomedical device makers and engineers, and device regulators and professional bodies (this group will include representatives from the RCOG and RCM).

We will leverage the NIHR HealthTech Research Centre Network (14 centres across England) to identify the most appropriate expertise given the shortlisted devices, and also expertise gleaned through AMADA study (see above) on regulatory and ethical frameworks to inform the recommendation development process. Each device, and the quantitative and qualitative evidence developed in WP1-3 related to it, will be considered in turn by the panel and recommendations for next steps in research and policy will be developed. These will be compiled into a report following this meeting and circulated to all panel members for further review and additions prior to publication. They will be provided with materials in advance summarising the findings from WP1-3 on the shortlist of devices developed in WP3. The final panel meeting will be face-to-face to agree on the final content of these recommendations and outputs:

Policy recommendations and stakeholder engagement

This work package focuses on engaging key decision-makers and stakeholders to ensure our research findings shape policy and practice in the healthcare sector. Our Scientific Advisory Board will play a pivotal role in enhancing dissemination. The committee members will use their networks to "open doors" with key policymakers, clinical leaders, and regulatory bodies. Their influence will ensure our findings reach high-level decision-makers, particularly in maternal and neonatal healthcare.

- Development of a policy and research white paper: We will prepare a comprehensive policy and research white paper summarising our key findings, along with actionable steps for addressing biases in the use of medical devices during pregnancy and neonatal care.
- Policy brief and infographic: In addition to the white paper, we will produce a policy brief targeted specifically at policymakers. This document will be concise,

with a clear infographic summary of key findings and recommendations, ensuring accessibility and ease of understanding for decision-makers.

- Lay summary: A very short lay summary, also accompanied by an infographic, will be designed for a non-specialist audience. This will help affected communities and the general public understand the implications of our findings for maternal and neonatal healthcare.
- Engage with policymakers: We will present our findings directly to relevant governmental bodies, including the UK National Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme and health technology regulatory authorities. Our aim is to inform policy updates on the equitable use of medical devices in pregnancy and neonatal care.
- Host stakeholder roundtables: To ensure a broad stakeholder engagement, we will organise roundtable discussions with clinical bodies such as RCOG and RCM. These discussions will focus on integrating our findings into updated clinical guidelines, as well as exploring the need for new training on the equitable use of medical devices.