

East Midlands Patient Safety Collaborative (PSC) Progress Report

Q1-Q4
(2025-26)

April 2026
K Khan

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the PSC programmes (Managing Deterioration and Martha's Rule, Maternity and Neonatal (MatNeo), Medicines Safety and Safer Systems) across the East Midlands, their impacts and key achievements as well as national, regional or local feedback on progress.

ROLE OF THE HIEM TEAM

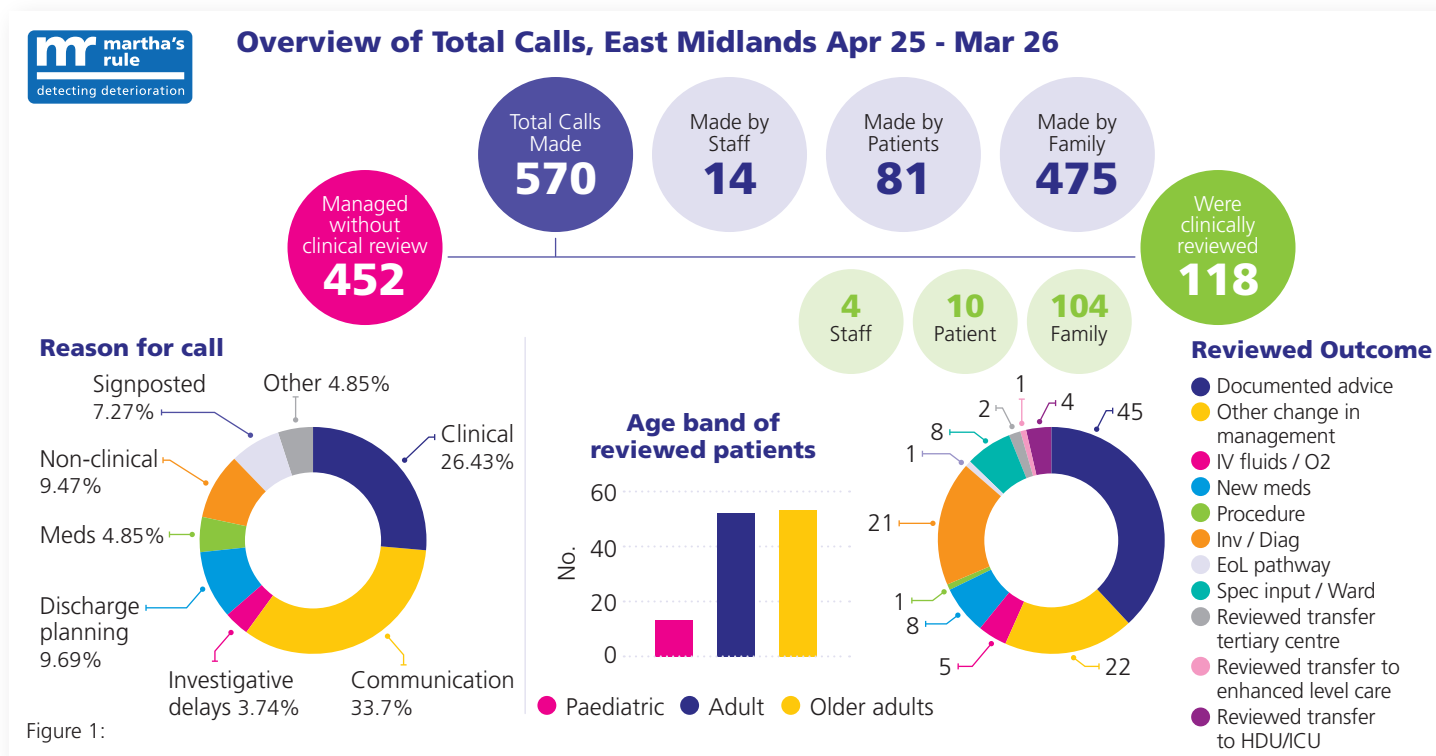
Health Innovation East Midlands (HIEM) continues to play a pivotal role in advancing patient safety across the region, collaborating with partners to foster a culture of continuous learning and drive meaningful, measurable improvements in care.

FEEDBACK

- "Leading so expertly on key parts of the national patient safety portfolio."
- "Applying rigorous approaches in QI safety science, engagement and collaboration."
(Head of Martha's Rule and Patient Safety Improvement Programmes, NHS England)

Managing Deterioration and Martha's Rule Programme

- Ongoing support provided across eight phase-one sites and five phase-two sites, with 570 calls made across the East Midlands (see Figure 1 for breakdown).
- Tailored 1:1 support delivered to every Trust, recognising varying levels of maturity, expertise, and local priorities.
- Co-led the Midlands Martha's Rule Celebration and Learning Event, attended by over 120 colleagues from across the Midlands. Outputs from the workshop will inform programme direction for Q1 2026/27.
- Established regional, in person working groups to strengthen consistency, shared understanding, and alignment across adult and paediatric pathways.
- Facilitated virtual Communities of Practice (CoPs) shaped by member needs.
- Maintained strong momentum on the Patient Wellness Questionnaire and testing deterioration tools, with Trusts sharing real world learning.
- Applied improvement methodologies to reduce non deterioration calls and ensure they are directed to the appropriate teams, supporting effective care and the implementation of Martha's Rule.



Martha's Rule Community Hospital Pilot

- Identification, onboarding of pilot sites and programme launch.
- Development of measurement for improvement plan including minimum data set, to assess programme impact.

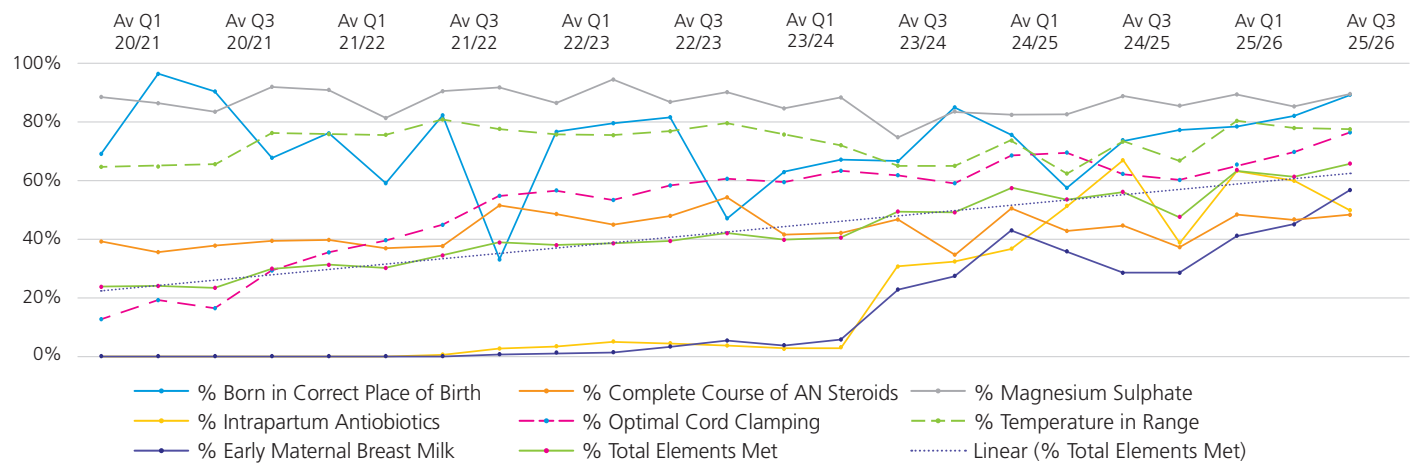
Maternity and Neonatal Optimisation and Stabilisation of the Preterm Infant (since April 2021)

- In East Midlands babies receiving all elements for optimisation is now 65% (compared to 23% in 2020). This exceeds the national average of 63%.
- East Midlands Early Breast Milk (EBM) Webinar was delivered in Q3 with 70 attendees from all eight Trusts across the region. Monthly bespoke coaching is being delivered to all nominated leads across the East Midlands to drive quality improvement and improvement in EBM data. The data has shown a positive shift from 41% in Q1 to 56% in Q3 which equates to the national average.
- Co-led the Midlands Safer Maternity Conference in March 2026, which was attended by 109 colleagues from across the region, 58 from East Midlands.

NATIONAL/LOCAL FEEDBACK

- "Phenomenal work and approach taken to support implementation of Martha's Rule." (Head of Martha's Rule and Patient Safety Improvement Programmes)
- "Really positive to share learning from other organisations." (Midlands' event delegate)
- "Good, timely current programme. Thank you." (Midlands' event delegate)

East Midlands MatNeo Optimisation Standards



Early Recognition and Management of Deterioration of Women and Babies

- Developed a regional scoping tool to assess implementation readiness and governance structures to inform future digital development planning, identify potential risks, and support the ongoing digital transition.
- Completed a mapping exercise of digital and paper deterioration tools in collaboration with the Midlands Maternity and Neonatal Digital Network.
- 1:1 meeting with all sites took place in Q4 to support the implementation of digital MEWS and NEWTT2. Leads have been identified for each Trust. Peer support sessions for both tools will run in Q1 2026/27 to provide a space for shared learning, exploring variation, and supporting local QI actions.

Perinatal Culture and Leadership Programme (PCLP)

- PCLP leads created an eight-session skills development programme to help train new culture coaches in the East Midlands.
- Culture coach toolkit and resources to be available across all programmes and hosted on HIEM website.
- MOMENTS Train the Trainer programme delivered to eight Trusts, training 106 colleagues, and with 73 delegates at the Midlands Professional Midwifery Advocate away day.
- Designed and delivered a series of bespoke outcomes focused workshops for United Hospitals Derby and Burton perinatal leadership team.
- Work commenced with Nottingham University Hospitals to create a shared decision-making tool to support with intra-uterine transfers and contribute to babies being born in the right place.
- Regional perinatal meetings to define the PSC role, foster collaboration, identify coaching needs, and share information from Trusts who have noted improvements in perinatal working.
- Delivered individual leadership coaching support.
- Promoted evidence-based tools and resources focused on improving clinical escalation and response, sharing examples of excellence and facilitating opportunities for wider adoption across the perinatal workforce.

Avoiding Brain Injury in Childbirth (ABC)

- 10 Clinical Faculty members recruited from across the region.
- 27 staff trained in how to manage an impacted fetal head (since Feb 2026).
- Regional webinars hosted, with FAQ and resources shared.
- Mapping completed with all Trust to identify training gaps.
- Training plans created with each Trust.

NATIONAL / LOCAL FEEDBACK

- Impacted fetal head training: "Very insightful and comprehensive, knowledgeable faculty and insight into how we can adapt our sessions."
- Maternity and Neonatal Event – "Excellent speakers and I really appreciated the inclusion of the Maternity and Neonatal Voice Partnership, parents' perspectives and stories."
- "Excellent topics covered and good food for thought on how we can take some of the learning from the event back to our trust."
- Partnership with EM NODN – "We have built a fantastic collaborative relationship with HIEM, which has had a positive impact on the progress of the Regional Early Breast Milk Project and meeting the priorities of our project roadmap."
- "We found the training extremely useful. We are applying the principles to some of our work and we are championing the MOMENTS Tool at all opportunities."
- "The culture coach course has helped me to improve on my listening skills and effective communication."

Medicines Safety Improvement Programme - Helping people with a learning disability, who are at risk of behaviour that challenges, avoid harm from psychotropic medicines

- Taken a whole system approach to improvement in both Northamptonshire and Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland ICBs.
- Working with a core working group in both systems we have completed a full system mapping exercise and system action planning process.
- Extracting monthly prescribing data specific for the programme population that is contributing to a national dataset and can be used to measure improvement.
- Co-produced a programme vision statement across both systems.

FEEDBACK

- “The system maps have been immeasurably helpful for understanding how services interact.” (Dr Tom Howseman, Northants ICB)

Systems Safety

- Refreshed draft of the PSIRF Oversight Roles and Responsibilities Specification (NHS England Guidance)
- Delivered three national programme update webinars (avg. 105 attendees; usefulness rating 4.1/5).
- PSIRF governance and shared learning infrastructure process map developed.
- Developed case studies of effective, supportive oversight in practice.
- Shared learning resources published on NHS Futures.

