

# NeLH's resources continue to grow



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The National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) is gearing up for its' national awareness week. This article looks at NeLH's activities over the last year.

Since the publication of the previous article on the National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) in the September 2002 *RCM Midwives journal* (5(9)), the range of resources available has continued to grow. This year, a major effort is going into the promotion of NeLH and the training of clinicians in the use of its content, culminating in NeLH's national awareness week from 24-30 November. Health libraries, which increasingly provide training and support to their readers in the use of online resources, are being enlisted as partners in this initiative, and supported with a wide range of promotion material. The College library is planning to run search clinics at lunchtime during the week, culminating in a lunch on Friday 28 November at which the winner of the quiz competition (see page opposite) and prize draw will be announced. You may find yourselves the recipients of NeLH emails and promotional leaflets, sent out either by the College or from your Trust library.

## New libraries

Four new 'specialist libraries' – cardiovascular, health management, musculoskeletal and child health – are to be launched on NeLH during the awareness week. A sneak preview is available, by visiting, <http://rms.nelh.nhs.uk>. Also, the 'guidelines finder' is to be relaunched. The database holds details of over 700 UK national guidelines, with links to internet-downloadable versions of these and, where available, to the NeLH full-text guidelines collection. During the week, teleconferenced training will be available to any health professional. There will be a series of ten-minute sessions throughout the week (times are to be announced), covering different resources, but focused around the NeLH tour, visit: [www.nelh.nhs.uk/tour/](http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/tour/).

## Increasing resources

This year has seen a considerable growth in the range of resources available on NeLH. The 'know-how' section of the site has expanded significantly. It now incorporates a care protocols and pathways area, intended to provide an integrated national point of access for sharing and disseminating clinical protocols and integrated care pathways. Some care pathways are available to download as attachments.

Another substantial resource is the PRODIGY library of clinical guidance for GPs. There are also links to the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI), the NHS Modernisation Agency and the National Patient Safety Agency websites. The professional specialist libraries, including midwifery, are due for a overhaul in Spring 2004.

The major additions to the 'knowledge' section of the site are the National Core Content clinical databases and full-text journals. These resources are accessible to anyone working in, or in association with, the NHS in England outside London (the capital has its own service, KA24: [www.hilo.nhs.uk/](http://www.hilo.nhs.uk/)). The National Core Content is funded by the NHS Workforce Development Confederations. Other countries within the UK have access to similar resources: in Wales, via HOWIS ([www.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.wales.nhs.uk)), in Scotland, via the NHS Scotland e-library ([www.elib.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk)).

## Online services

The clinical databases provided by the Dialog (DataStarWeb) online service, include MEDLINE, the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), British Nursing Index (BNI), PsycINFO, DH-Data, the Excerpta Medica database (EMBASE) and the Allied and Complementary Medicine (AMED). Of these, MEDLINE and CINAHL are the best sources for clinical midwifery information. It is worth noting that, while the content is identical, Dialog MEDLINE has a different, more user-friendly interface from that of the freely-available PubMed version of MEDLINE at: [www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov). DH-Data incorporates a great deal of material relating to the delivery of clinical services and to NHS management issues generally. PsycINFO is an indispensable source for mental health issues such as postnatal depression, attachment theory and substance misuse. AMED is a database maintained by the British Library, the original aim of which was to complement MEDLINE. It covers material relating to the professions allied to medicine within the UK, as well as high-quality resources on complementary therapies. Access via the world wide web is validated through an NHS ATHENS password, which may be applied for online at [www.nelh.nhs.uk/home\\_use.asp](http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/home_use.asp), or obtained from an NHS Trust ATHENS administrator.

Within DataStarWeb, it is possible to print and email search results and to save searches either temporarily or permanently. It is also possible to set alerts for searches of one's choice, so that the system runs the search at prescribed intervals on newly-added content and emails the results to the searcher. This can be useful when monitoring a topic. For example, should one wish to monitor the literature on caesarean rates in the UK, it is straightforward to create an alert within CINAHL using the search statement 'caesarean ADJ rate\$', limited to 'UK and Ireland'. Detailed guides to the use of the search facilities are available to print out from the Dialog NHS portal: [www.nhs.dialog.com](http://www.nhs.dialog.com)

### New literature

A collection of almost 1000 full-text journals has been purchased from ProQuest and EBSCO. These cover health management and a wide range of clinical specialties. They link to the clinical databases, so that a bibliographic record, retrieved by a search, will link to the full text of a journal article where the journal title is part of the collection. The ProQuest collection also includes an article database, in which searches can be limited to NeLH core content titles or to peer-reviewed journals. The nursing, medical and psychology collections

can be searched together or separately. A variety of search methods is provided. Unfortunately, some journals, such as the *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing* (JOGNN), have an embargo on current content; this is indicated where applicable. The collection includes some midwifery and sexual health titles, which are listed on the RCM website:

[www.rcm.org.uk/data/info\\_centre/data/library\\_intro.htm](http://www.rcm.org.uk/data/info_centre/data/library_intro.htm). Again, access via the world wide web is validated via NHS ATHENS.

Within the 'knowledge' area of the site, the

full-text of many chapters of the *Health care needs assessment: epidemiologically-based needs assessment reviews* can be found, including pregnancy and childbirth, gynaecology, and alcohol misuse. DIPEX, the Database of Individual Patient Experience, which contains material on antenatal diagnosis of congenital heart disease and on epilepsy and pregnancy, is also accessible here.

To acquaint yourself more directly with NeLH resources, have a go at the short quiz. The winner will be drawn from the correct entries at the library lunch on 28 November.



## NeLH quiz

1. Who wrote, in 2002 about auditing the development of guidelines for shoulder dystocia?
2. Which organisation has produced a care pathway for prenatal diagnosis – patient requesting CVS or amniocentesis? Is this available to view online?
3. In 1998, Jewell and Young published a Cochrane review on nausea and vomiting in early pregnancy. What were their main conclusions? Where within the NeLH resources, other than in the Cochrane Library itself, can you find a brief discussion of their work?
4. In the following review, what were the reviewers' main conclusions? Morton SC, Williams MS, Keeler EB, Gambone JC, Kahn KL. (1994) Effect of epidural analgesia for labor on the cesarean delivery rate. *Obstetrics and Gynecology* **83**: 1045-52.
5. In which part of NeLH can one find information leaflets for women on aspects of pregnancy and childbirth?
6. Who are the subject advisors for *BioMed Central Pregnancy and Childbirth*?
7. What are the four main topics covered in the pregnancy and childbirth section of the current issue of *Clinical Evidence*?
8. Is the *Health Care Needs Assessment* relating to pregnancy and childbirth available full-text online? When was it published?
9. In 2001, Corbet-Owen and Kruger published the results of a study of the meanings ascribed by women to spontaneous pregnancy loss. Where was their study published? What theoretical framework did they employ?
10. Dr Tina Lavender from the University of Central England (UCE) recently published the results of some NHS-funded work on women's experiences of breastfeeding. Where on NeLH might one find an abstract of this work?

**Answers please by 26 November 2003 to: Catherine Ebenezer, RCM, 15 Mansfield Street, London W1G 9NH. Or email: [catherine.ebenezer@rcm.org.uk](mailto:catherine.ebenezer@rcm.org.uk)**

**The draw will be made for the winner at the library lunch for NeLH Awareness Week on 28 November 2003. The prize is a £50 book token.**