



OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY LEARNING OUTCOMES

Aims of the attachment:

By the end of this attachment, you will have developed knowledge, clinical skills and professional behaviours required to assess and contribute to the safe care of women and pregnant people across obstetrics, gynaecology, sexual and reproductive health and acute care settings.

- Describe common and serious presentations related to women's reproductive, sexual and pregnancy health, including relevant ethical and legal aspects.
- Develop a person-centred approach to communication, clinical reasoning, investigation and management in women's health and pregnancy.
- Apply a life-course approach to women's health, including health promotion, screening, prevention and the wider social determinants of health.
- Describe women's health in local, national, social and global contexts, including health inequalities and the role of guidelines, audit and multidisciplinary teamwork.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Attachment:

Professional and clinical skills:

By the end of your attachment, you should be able to:

- Perform a comprehensive obstetric history at different stages of pregnancy, including antenatal risk assessment and the patient's views, beliefs, concerns and vulnerabilities.
- Perform a comprehensive gynaecological, menstrual, fertility, sexual and reproductive history across the life course.
- Perform and interpret appropriate abdominal, pelvic and obstetric examinations, including bimanual pelvic assessment and speculum examination, blood pressure measurement, urinalysis, urine pregnancy testing, abdominal palpation and foetal heart assessment where appropriate.

- Summarise key history and examination findings using clinical reasoning, identify relevant pathology, formulate prioritised differential diagnoses, and describe initial investigations in the patient in gynaecology and obstetric settings.
- Interpret investigations in the clinical context, including blood results (with acknowledgment of pregnancy specific ranges), ultrasound findings, pregnancy testing, genital tract swabs and other relevant gynaecological investigations.
- Explain initial management options using shared decision-making and national or local guidance, taking account of the woman's values and circumstances.
- Communicate uncertainty, risk, results and likely diagnoses clearly and sensitively, and signpost to high-quality patient information such as RCOG patient resources.
- Demonstrate empathy, compassion and rapport when communicating bad news, including early pregnancy loss, foetal anomaly, stillbirth, cancer diagnosis or extreme prematurity.
- Use an ABCDE approach to assess an acutely unwell woman, initiate resuscitation or immediate management where appropriate, and escalate promptly to senior and multidisciplinary colleagues.
- Describe and perform core practical skills safely under supervision, including pregnancy testing, blood pressure measurement in pregnancy, speculum use, vaginal or endocervical swabs, and simulated cervical smear technique.

Professional values and behaviours:

By the end of your attachment, you should be able to:

- Explain the importance of patient safety by referring to guidelines, recognise limits of competence, escalate concerns, and work effectively with the multidisciplinary team.
- Apply legal, professional and ethical principles relevant to women's health, including consent, confidentiality, capacity, The Children (Scotland) Act, the Abortion Act, the Mental Capacity Act and FGM legislation.
- Demonstrate professional principles for seeking consent for intimate examination with respectful communication.
- Describe vulnerability and safeguarding concerns, including domestic abuse, sexual violence, female genital mutilation, substance misuse, difficult social circumstances and language barriers.
- Explain health inequalities in women's health outcomes, including the impact of ethnicity, social determinants, and access to care.
- Describe the role of audit, risk management, incident reporting and the role of local and national reports and guidance in the care of patients in obstetrics and gynaecology, including an awareness of RCOG, NICE, MBRRACE, UKMEC and local guidance.

Professional knowledge:

By the end of your attachment, you should be able to describe the clinical features, investigation and initial management of the following areas:

Antenatal care, risk assessment and pregnancy planning

- Describe antenatal care in a low-risk pregnancy, including appointment schedule, ultrasound schedule, blood tests, screening tests and risk assessment.
- Describe a pregnancy as low or increased risk at booking and discuss care planning for women with previous pregnancy complications, multiple pregnancy, social vulnerability or pre-existing medical and mental health conditions.
- Explain pregnancy complications and planning for women with previous caesarean section, previous birth trauma, hypertensive disease, diabetes, epilepsy, obesity, substance misuse, safeguarding concerns or perinatal mental illness
- Explain the principles of preconception counselling, folic acid, vaccination, lifestyle advice and optimisation of long-term conditions before pregnancy.

Symptoms and presentations during pregnancy

- Describe differential diagnoses and initial investigation or management plans for nausea & vomiting/hyperemesis, hypertension, proteinuria, bleeding after 24 weeks, itching, rash, reduced foetal movements, breech presentation, foetal growth restriction, pre-term pre-labour rupture of membranes (PPROM), preterm labour, prolonged pregnancy, swollen or painful leg, breathlessness, chest pain, severe headache and fever.
- Explain the role of ultrasound in identifying foetal anomalies and common genetic anomalies
- Describe the role of foetal medicine in counselling and management options.
- Describe relevant investigations in pregnancy, differential diagnoses and referral pathways

Intrapartum and postnatal care

- Describe normal labour, the mechanics of vaginal birth and principles of maternal and foetal monitoring in labour.
- Describe complications of labour, including delayed progress, presumed foetal compromise, sepsis, primary postpartum haemorrhage, perineal trauma, retained placenta and operative delivery.

- Describe physical and emotional changes in the puerperium and formulate initial management plans for fever, sepsis, heavy bleeding, breathlessness, breast pain, difficulty breastfeeding, mood disturbance and anxiety in the postnatal period.

Gynaecology and early pregnancy

- Describe normal menstrual cycle physiology, sexual function and libido, and the impact of menstrual, sexual and pelvic symptoms on quality of life.
- Describe female genital tract anatomy
- Describe differential diagnoses and initial investigation or management plans for abnormal vaginal bleeding, amenorrhoea, abdominal distension or pelvic mass, dysmenorrhoea, dyspareunia, pelvic pain, vaginal discharge, urinary symptoms, prolapse, vulval itching or lesions, subfertility and early pregnancy bleeding or pain.
- Explain common presentations and red flags for gynaecological malignancy, including ovarian, endometrial, cervical and vulval cancer, and describe relevant referral pathways.
- Describe options and referral pathways for contraception, emergency contraception, termination of pregnancy and unplanned or unwanted pregnancy.

Acutely ill woman

- Describe severity, and immediate care needs in an acutely unwell obstetric or gynaecological patient, including the role of the multidisciplinary team
- Describe a systematic ABCDE approach for collapse, shock, sepsis, seizures or maternal collapse, including pregnancy-specific adaptations to resuscitation after 24 weeks.
- Formulate initial management plans for ruptured ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, antepartum haemorrhage, intrapartum haemorrhage, postpartum haemorrhage, eclampsia, sepsis, venous thromboembolism and cardiac causes of maternal collapse.

Health promotion, life-course care and illness prevention

- Apply a life-course approach to women's health across adolescence, reproductive years and post-reproductive years.
- Explain population health, screening programmes and prevention strategies, including pregnancy screening, cervical screening, HPV vaccination, vitamin supplementation and risk reduction.

- Describe menopause care, genitourinary syndrome of the menopause (GSM), healthy lifestyle advice, osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease prevention.

Reproductive and sexual health in a global and social perspective

- Describe barriers to accessing women health services and cultural and legal factors affecting sexual and reproductive health, including female genital mutilation, domestic abuse, sexual violence, contraception and access to safe abortion.
- Describe the epidemiology of common sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, chlamydia and gonorrhoea, in a global context.
- Demonstrate an awareness of global differences in maternal mortality, stillbirth and perinatal mortality, and the role of reports and organisations such as MBRRACE and WHO.

Prescribing in women's health

- Explain the use of commonly prescribed medications in women's health safely, using guidelines, protocols and the British National Formulary, and recognise prescribing issues for non-women's health medication use in pregnancy and women of child-bearing potential.
- Demonstrate awareness of safe prescribing in pregnancy and where to find reliable information about drug choice and dose adjustment e.g. UKMEC, Bumps website, BNF
- Describe indications, contraindications and common medicines used for hyperemesis, hypertension, urinary tract infection in women, venous thromboembolism, analgesia, anaemia, abnormal uterine bleeding, contraception, emergency contraception, candidiasis, bacterial vaginosis, sexually transmitted infections and menopausal symptoms.

Core presentations and conditions for MLA/RCOG mapping:

By the end of the attachment, you should be familiar with the following core presentations and conditions. The list includes MLA 2026 and presentation/conditions outlined by the RCOG for undergraduates.

Pregnancy and puerperium

Presentation	Condition
Abnormal urinalysis	Antepartum haemorrhage
Anaemia	Blood group incompatibility in pregnancy
Bleeding and pain in early pregnancy	Chorioamnionitis
Bleeding antepartum	Complications of labour
Bleeding postpartum	Diabetes in pregnancy
Breast pain/tenderness	Ectopic pregnancy
Breathlessness	Female genital mutilation and pregnancy
Breech presentation, unstable lie, transverse lie	Foetal abnormalities and common genetic abnormalities
Chest pain	Gestational trophoblastic disease / molar pregnancy
Epigastric pain	Hyperemesis gravidarum
Foetal distress in labour	Hypertension in pregnancy
Fits/seizures	Induction of labour
Headache	Infections in labour and puerperium
Hypertension	Jaundice in pregnancy
Hyperemesis	Maternal infections
Itching	Miscarriage and intrauterine death
Labour	Multiple pregnancy
Maternal collapse/shock	Normal labour and maternal/foetal monitoring
Mood disturbance, anxiety, phobia during pregnancy/postnatal	Obesity and pregnancy
Nausea	Obstetric cholestasis
Normal pregnancy and antenatal care	Operative delivery
Painful swollen leg	Perinatal mental illness

Presentation	Condition
Postpartum haemorrhage	Perineal trauma
Pregnancy risk assessment	Placental abruption
Prematurity, preterm labour and PPRM	Polyhydramnios / oligohydramnios
Prolonged pregnancy	Postpartum haemorrhage
Puerperium	Pre-existing medical problems
Pyrexia	Pregnancy of unknown location
Rash in pregnancy	Previous caesarean birth and VBAC
Reduced or changed foetal movements	Vasa praevia
Retained placenta	Venous thromboembolism in pregnancy and puerperium
Small or large for gestational age	

Gynaecology

Presentation	Condition
Bleeding and pain in early pregnancy	Bacterial vaginosis
Abdominal distension	Bartholin cyst / abscess
Abdominal / pelvic mass	Candidiasis
Abnormal vaginal bleeding	Cervical cancer
Amenorrhoea	Cervical ectropion
Contraception request/advice	Cervical polyps
Dysmenorrhoea	Cervical screening / HPV
Infertility / subfertility	Endometrial cancer
Menopause / perimenopause	Endometrial polyps
Pain management	Endometrial hyperplasia
Painful sexual intercourse	Endometriosis

Presentation	Condition
Pelvic mass	Fibroids
Pelvic pain	Genitourinary syndrome of the menopause
Premenstrual symptoms	Lichen sclerosis
Sexual dysfunction	Lower urinary tract infections in women
Unintended pregnancy and termination	Menopause / perimenopause
Urinary symptoms / urinary incontinence	Ovarian cancer
Vaginal discharge	Ovarian cysts
Vaginal prolapse	Ovarian torsion
Vulval and vaginal lumps	Pelvic inflammatory disease
Vulval itching / lesion	Polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS) (formally PCOS)
	Premenstrual syndrome
	Sexually transmitted infections
	Termination of pregnancy
	Urinary incontinence
	Vaginal prolapse
	Vulval cancer

References

1. *Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Undergraduate Curriculum 2021.*
[rcog-undergraduate-curriculum-final-version-2021.pdf](#)
2. Updated MLA content map (applies from September 2026) content [MLA content map - GMC](#)