

GRADE tables for review question: What are the benefits and risks of different places of birth for women at different BMI thresholds?

Table 4: Evidence profile for comparison 1: BMI <18.5kg/m² versus BMI 18.5 – 24.9kg/m²

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI <18.5kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	153/330 (46.4%)	2524/4833 (52.2%)	aRR 0.94 (0.82 to 1.08)	31 fewer per 1000 (from 94 fewer to 42 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	32/228 (14%)	666/3809 (17.5%)	aRR 0.86 (0.54 to 1.36)	24 fewer per 1000 (from 80 fewer to 63 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	182/558 (32.6%)	3192/8648 (36.9%)	aRR 0.94 (0.84 to 1.05)	22 fewer per 1000 (from 59 fewer to 18 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Home - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	29/318 (9.1%)	901/8051 (11.2%)	aRR 0.97 (0.68 to 1.38)	3 fewer per 1000 (from 36 fewer to 43 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Freestanding midwifery unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	25/234 (10.7%)	813/5584 (14.6%)	aRR 0.98 (0.61 to 1.57)	3 fewer per 1000 (from 57 fewer to 83 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Alongside midwifery unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	88/434 (20.3%)	1647/8140 (20.2%)	aRR 1.08 (0.83 to 1.41)	16 more per 1000 (from 34 fewer to 83 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI <18.5kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Maternal admission to intensive care - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	5/577 (0.87%)	57/8936 (0.64%)	aRR 1.63 (0.72 to 3.69)	4 more per 1000 (from 2 fewer to 17 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Instrumental birth - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	79/577 (13.7%)	1397/8928 (15.6%)	aRR 0.95 (0.79 to 1.14)	8 fewer per 1000 (from 33 fewer to 22 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Intrapartum caesarean birth - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	39/577 (6.8%)	846/8928 (9.5%)	aRR 0.83 (0.61 to 1.13)	16 fewer per 1000 (from 37 fewer to 12 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Maternal blood transfusion - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	6/574 (1%)	112/8881 (1.3%)	aRR 1.03 (0.48 to 2.21)	0 more per 1000 (from 7 fewer to 15 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	9/344 (2.6%)	180/4979 (3.6%)	aRR 0.72 (0.36 to 1.44)	10 fewer per 1000 (from 23 fewer to 16 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	5/232 (2.2%)	68/3891 (1.7%)	aRR 1.13 (0.4 to 3.19)	2 more per 1000 (from 10 fewer to 38 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	14/576 (2.4%)	249/8881 (2.8%)	aRR 0.81 (0.48 to 1.37)	5 fewer per 1000 (from 15 fewer to 10 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Home - Mixed parity												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI <18.5kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	7/321 (2.2%)	135/8088 (1.7%)	aRR 1.11 (0.47 to 2.62)	2 more per 1000 (from 9 fewer to 27 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Freestanding - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	5/236 (2.1%)	95/5623 (1.7%)	aRR 1.29 (0.46 to 3.62)	5 more per 1000 (from 9 fewer to 44 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Alongside - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	3/440 (0.68%)	144/8196 (1.8%)	aRR 0.33 (0.13 to 0.84)	12 fewer per 1000 (from 3 fewer to 15 fewer)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Home - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	28/80 (35%)	1050/2344 (44.8%)	aRR 0.79 (0.58 to 1.08)	94 fewer per 1000 (from 188 fewer to 36 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Home - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	28/237 (11.8%)	579/5702 (10.2%)	aRR 1.27 (0.84 to 1.92)	27 more per 1000 (from 16 fewer to 93 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Alongside - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	90/242 (37.2%)	1764/4385 (40.2%)	aRR 1.02 (0.78 to 1.33)	8 more per 1000 (from 89 fewer to 133 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Alongside - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	25/194 (12.9%)	460/3765 (12.2%)	aRR 1.21 (0.77 to 1.9)	26 more per 1000 (from 28 fewer to 110 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Freestanding - Nulliparous												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI <18.5kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	36/120 (30%)	931/2723 (34.2%)	aRR 1.12 (0.8 to 1.57)	41 more per 1000 (from 68 fewer to 195 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Freestanding - Nulliparous												
1 (Stephenson-Famy 2018)	observational studies	serious ³	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	NR	NR	aOR 0.99 (0.73 to 1.35)	2 fewer per 1000 (from 67 fewer to 70 more) ⁴	VERY LOW	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Freestanding - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	11/112 (9.8%)	243/2842 (8.6%)	aRR 0.97 (0.51 to 1.84)	3 fewer per 1000 (from 42 fewer to 72 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT

aOR: adjusted odds ratio (for Stephenson-Famy 2018: maternal age, non-Hispanic/Hispanic, marital status, maternal education, BMI, insurance status); aRR: adjusted risk ratio (for Hollowell 2014 and Hollowell 2015: maternal age, ethnic group, understanding of English, marital or partner status, Index of Multiple Deprivation score, parity (previous pregnancies ≥24weeks), gestation at delivery); BMI: body mass index; CI: confidence interval; NR: not reported

1 95% CI crosses 2 MIDs
2 95% CI crosses 1 MID
3 Serious risk of bias in the evidence contributing to the outcomes as per ROBINS-I
4 Control group risk was not reported by the study. Absolute effect calculated using control group risk from Hollowell 2015

Table 5: Evidence profile for comparison 2: BMI 25-29.9 kg/m² versus BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m²

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI 25-29.9kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	1277/2321 (55%)	2524/4833 (52.2%)	aRR 1.04 (0.99 to 1.09)	21 more per 1000 (from 5 fewer to 47 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI 25-29.9kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	465/2290 (20.3%)	666/3809 (17.5%)	aRR 1.16 (1.02 to 1.32)	28 more per 1000 (from 3 more to 56 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	1747/4621 (37.8%)	3192/8648 (36.9%)	aRR 1.06 (1.01 to 1.11)	22 more per 1000 (from 4 more to 41 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Home - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	396/3723 (10.6%)	901/8051 (11.2%)	aRR 1.03 (0.93 to 1.14)	3 more per 1000 (from 8 fewer to 16 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Freestanding midwifery unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	369/2650 (13.9%)	813/5584 (14.6%)	aRR 1.1 (0.98 to 1.23)	15 more per 1000 (from 3 fewer to 33 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Alongside midwifery unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	690/3735 (18.5%)	1647/8140 (20.2%)	aRR 1.02 (0.93 to 1.12)	4 more per 1000 (from 14 fewer to 24 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Maternal admission to intensive care - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	28/4778 (0.59%)	57/8936 (0.64%)	aRR 0.78 (0.41 to 1.48)	1 fewer per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 3 more)	LOW	CRITICAL

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI 25-29.9kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
		risk of bias										
Instrumental birth - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	635/4774 (13.3%)	1397/8928 (15.6%)	aRR 0.87 (0.8 to 0.95)	20 fewer per 1000 (from 8 fewer to 31 fewer)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Intrapartum caesarean birth - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	588/4774 (12.3%)	846/8928 (9.5%)	aRR 1.34 (1.2 to 1.5)	32 more per 1000 (from 19 more to 47 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Maternal blood transfusion - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	61/4735 (1.3%)	112/8881 (1.3%)	aRR 0.96 (0.62 to 1.49)	1 fewer per 1000 (from 5 fewer to 6 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	76/2406 (3.2%)	180/4979 (3.6%)	aRR 0.88 (0.62 to 1.25)	4 fewer per 1000 (from 14 fewer to 9 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	46/2333 (2%)	68/3891 (1.7%)	aRR 1.19 (0.88 to 1.61)	3 more per 1000 (from 2 fewer to 11 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI 25-29.9kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	123/4750 (2.6%)	58/1946 (3%)	aRR 0.96 (0.75 to 1.23)	1 fewer per 1000 (from 7 fewer to 7 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Home - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	70/3750 (1.9%)	135/8088 (1.7%)	aRR 1.09 (0.81 to 1.47)	2 more per 1000 (from 3 fewer to 8 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Freestanding - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	50/2673 (1.9%)	95/5623 (1.7%)	aRR 1.15 (0.78 to 1.7)	3 more per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 12 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Alongside - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	77/3781 (2%)	144/8196 (1.8%)	aRR 1.15 (0.78 to 1.7)	3 more per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 12 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Home - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision ²	none	438/902 (48.6%)	1050/2344 (44.8%)	aRR 1.05 (0.96 to 1.15)	22 more per 1000 (from 18 fewer to 67 more)	HIGH	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Home - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	361/2833 (12.7%)	579/5702 (10.2%)	aRR 1.17 (1.03 to 1.33)	17 more per 1000 (from 3 more to 34 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI 25-29.9kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Alongside - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision ²	none	707/1699 (41.6%)	1764/4385 (40.2%)	aRR 1.02 (0.92 to 1.13)	8 more per 1000 (from 32 fewer to 52 more)	HIGH	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Alongside - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	256/2053 (12.5%)	460/3765 (12.2%)	aRR 1 (0.86 to 1.16)	0 fewer per 1000 (from 17 fewer to 20 more)	HIGH	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Freestanding - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	serious ³	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	404/1091 (37%)	931/2723 (34.2%)	aRR 1.11 (1 to 1.23)	38 more per 1000 (from 0 more to 79 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Freestanding - Nulliparous												
1 (Stephenson-Famy 2018)	observational studies	serious ⁴	serious ³	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	NR	NR	aOR 1.9 (1.40 to 2.58)	155 more per 1000 (from 79 more to 231 more) ⁵	LOW	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Freestanding - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	143/1542 (9.3%)	243/2842 (8.6%)	aRR 1.1 (0.88 to 1.38)	9 more per 1000 (from 10 fewer to 32 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT

aOR: adjusted odds ratio (for Stephenson-Famy 2018: maternal age, non-Hispanic/Hispanic, marital status, maternal education, BMI, insurance status); aRR: adjusted risk ratio (for Hollowell 2014 and Hollowell 2015: maternal age, ethnic group, understanding of English, marital or partner status, Index of Multiple Deprivation score, parity (previous pregnancies ≥ 24 weeks), gestation at delivery); BMI: body mass index; CI: confidence interval; NR: not reported

1 95% CI crosses 1 MID
2 95% CI crosses 2 MIDs

3 Contradictory evidence from studies that cannot be meta-analysed due to specifics of outcome reported

4 Serious risk of bias in the evidence contributing to the outcomes as per ROBINS-I

5 Control group risk was not reported by the study. Absolute effect calculated using control group risk from Hollowell 2015

Table 6: Evidence profile for comparison 3: BMI 30-35kg/m² versus BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m²

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI 30-35kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9 kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	535/907 (59%)	2524/4833 (52.2%)	aRR 1.12 (1.05 to 1.19)	63 more per 1000 (from 26 more to 99 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	212/975 (21.7%)	666/3809 (17.5%)	aRR 1.22 (1.05 to 1.42)	38 more per 1000 (from 9 more to 73 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	748/1885 (39.7%)	3192/8648 (36.9%)	aRR 1.14 (1.08 to 1.2)	52 more per 1000 (from 30 more to 74 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Home - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	109/1211 (9%)	901/8051 (11.2%)	aRR 1.04 (0.89 to 1.22)	4 more per 1000 (from 12 fewer to 25 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Freestanding midwifery unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	86/911 (9.4%)	813/5584 (14.6%)	aRR 0.74 (0.61 to 0.9)	38 fewer per 1000 (from 15 fewer to 57 fewer)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Alongside midwifery unit - Mixed parity												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI 30-35kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9 kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	212/1253 (16.9%)	1647/8140 (20.2%)	aRR 1 (0.86 to 1.16)	0 fewer per 1000 (from 28 fewer to 32 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Maternal admission to intensive care - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	11/1955 (0.56%)	57/8936 (0.64%)	aRR 0.88 (0.5 to 1.55)	1 fewer per 1000 (from 3 fewer to 4 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Instrumental birth - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	249/1951 (12.8%)	1397/8928 (15.6%)	aRR 0.86 (0.74 to 1)	22 fewer per 1000 (from 41 fewer to 0 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Intrapartum caesarean birth - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	260/1951 (13.3%)	846/8928 (9.5%)	aRR 1.52 (1.3 to 1.78)	49 more per 1000 (from 28 more to 74 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Maternal blood transfusion - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	25/1945 (1.3%)	112/8881 (1.3%)	aRR 1 (0.65 to 1.54)	0 fewer per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 7 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	39/938 (4.2%)	180/4979 (3.6%)	aRR 1.18 (0.8 to 1.74)	7 more per 1000 (from 7 fewer to 27 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	19/1005 (1.9%)	68/3891 (1.7%)	aRR 1.26 (0.69 to 2.3)	5 more per 1000 (from 5 fewer to 23 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI 30-35kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9 kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	58/1946 (3%)	249/8881 (2.8%)	aRR 1.18 (0.85 to 1.64)	5 more per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 18 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death – Home - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	22/1224 (1.8%)	135/8088 (1.7%)	aRR 1.36 (0.8 to 2.31)	6 more per 1000 (from 3 fewer to 22 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death – Freestanding - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	19/915 (2.1%)	95/5623 (1.7%)	aRR 1.33 (0.79 to 2.24)	6 more per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 21 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death – Alongside - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	30/1262 (2.4%)	144/8196 (1.8%)	aRR 1.33 (0.75 to 2.36)	6 more per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 24 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Home - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	115/252 (45.6%)	1050/2344 (44.8%)	aRR 1.03 (0.88 to 1.21)	13 more per 1000 (from 54 fewer to 94 more)	HIGH	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Home - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	138/955 (14.5%)	579/5702 (10.2%)	aRR 1.29 (1.08 to 1.54)	29 more per 1000 (from 8 more to 55 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Alongside - Nulliparous												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI 30-35kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9 kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	211/518 (40.7%)	1764/4385 (40.2%)	aRR 1.01 (0.84 to 1.21)	4 more per 1000 (from 64 fewer to 84 more)	HIGH	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Alongside - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	96/745 (12.9%)	460/3765 (12.2%)	aRR 0.89 (0.68 to 1.16)	13 fewer per 1000 (from 39 fewer to 20 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Freestanding - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	105/333 (31.5%)	931/2723 (34.2%)	aRR 0.92 (0.77 to 1.1)	27 fewer per 1000 (from 79 fewer to 34 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Freestanding - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	42/572 (7.3%)	243/2842 (8.6%)	aRR 0.83 (0.62 to 1.11)	15 fewer per 1000 (from 32 fewer to 9 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT

aRR: adjusted risk ratio (for Hollowell 2014 and Hollowell 2015: maternal age, ethnic group, understanding of English, marital or partner status, Index of Multiple Deprivation score, parity (previous pregnancies ≥ 24 weeks), gestation at delivery); BMI: body mass index; CI: confidence interval

1 95% CI crosses 1 MID

2 95% CI crosses 2 MID

Table 7: Evidence profile for comparison 4: BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² versus BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m²

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI ≥ 30 kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Transfer to an obstetric unit - Freestanding – Nulliparous												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI ≥30kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Stephenson-Famy 2018)	observational studies	serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	NR	NR	aOR 2.3 (1.6 to 3.31) ²	203 more per 1000 (from 112 more to 290 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT

aOR: adjusted odds ratio (for Stephenson-Famy 2018: maternal age, non-Hispanic/Hispanic, marital status, maternal education, BMI, insurance status); BMI: body mass index; CI: confidence interval; NR: not reported

¹ Serious risk of bias in the evidence contributing to the outcomes as per ROBINS-I

² Control group risk was not reported by the study. Absolute effect calculated using control group risk from Hollowell 2015

Table 8: Evidence profile for comparison 5: BMI >35kg/m² versus BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m²

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI >35kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	225/404 (55.7%)	2524/4833 (52.2%)	aRR 1.08 (0.99 to 1.18)	42 more per 1000 (from 5 fewer to 94 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	117/555 (21.1%)	666/3809 (17.5%)	aRR 1.24 (0.97 to 1.59)	42 more per 1000 (from 5 fewer to 103 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Maternal admission to intensive care - Obstetric unit – Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	5/984 (0.51%)	57/8936 (0.64%)	aRR 0.71 (0.25 to 2.02)	2 fewer per 1000 (from 5 fewer to 7 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Instrumental birth - Obstetric unit – Mixed parity												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI >35kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	84/983 (8.5%)	1397/8928 (15.6%)	aRR 0.7 (0.57 to 0.86)	47 fewer per 1000 (from 22 fewer to 67 fewer)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Intrapartum caesarean birth - Obstetric unit – Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	135/983 (13.7%)	846/8928 (9.5%)	aRR 1.69 (1.35 to 2.12)	65 more per 1000 (from 33 more to 106 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Maternal blood transfusion - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	9/984 (0.91%)	112/8881 (1.3%)	aRR 0.77 (0.4 to 1.48)	3 fewer per 1000 (from 8 fewer to 6 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	28/417 (6.7%)	180/4979 (3.6%)	aRR 2 (1.31 to 3.05)	36 more per 1000 (from 11 more to 74 more)	HIGH	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	15/563 (2.7%)	68/3891 (1.7%)	aRR 1.83 (1.22 to 2.75)	15 more per 1000 (from 4 more to 31 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT

aRR: adjusted risk ratio (for Hollowell 2014: maternal age, ethnic group, understanding of English, marital or partner status, Index of Multiple Deprivation score, parity (previous pregnancies ≥24weeks), gestation at delivery); BMI: body mass index; CI: confidence interval

1 95% CI crosses 1 MID

2 95% CI crosses 2 MIDs

Table 9: Evidence profile for comparison 6: BMI >35-40 kg/m² versus BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m²

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI >35-40kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	234/655 (35.7%)	3192/8648 (36.9%)	aRR 1.1 (1 to 1.21)	37 more per 1000 (from 0 more to 78 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined – Home - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	19/265 (7.2%)	901/8051 (11.2%)	aRR 0.95 (0.59 to 1.53)	6 fewer per 1000 (from 46 fewer to 59 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Freestanding midwifery unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	4/62 (6.5%)	813/5584 (14.6%)	aRR 0.8 (0.33 to 1.94)	29 fewer per 1000 (from 98 fewer to 137 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes combined - Alongside midwifery unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	14/136 (10.3%)	1647/8140 (20.2%)	aRR 0.89 (0.5 to 1.58)	22 fewer per 1000 (from 101 fewer to 117 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death - Obstetric unit - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	34/672 (5.1%)	249/8881 (2.8%)	aRR 2.16 (1.57 to 2.97)	33 more per 1000 (from 16 more to 55 more)	HIGH	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death – Home - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	5/263 (1.9%)	135/8088 (1.7%)	aRR 1.17 (0.49 to 2.79)	3 more per 1000 (from 9 fewer to 30 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death – Freestanding - Mixed parity												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI >35-40kg/m ²	BMI 18.5-24.9kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	3/63 (4.8%)	95/5623 (1.7%)	aRR 3.95 (1.07 to 14.58)	50 more per 1000 (from 1 more to 229 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Neonatal admission or intrapartum stillbirth/early neonatal death – Alongside - Mixed parity												
1 (Hollowell 2014)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	1/138 (0.72%)	144/8196 (1.8%)	aRR 0.62 (0.15 to 2.56)	7 fewer per 1000 (from 15 fewer to 27 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT

aRR: adjusted risk ratio (for Hollowell 2014: maternal age, ethnic group, understanding of English, marital or partner status, Index of Multiple Deprivation score, parity (previous pregnancies ≥24weeks), gestation at delivery); BMI: body mass index; CI: confidence interval

1 95% CI crosses 2 MIDs

2 95% CI crosses 1 MID

Table 10: Evidence profile for comparison 7: BMI >35 kg/m² versus BMI ≤35kg/m²

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI >35kg/m ²	BMI ≤35kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Maternal admission to intensive care - Alongside midwifery unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	10/312 (3.2%)	20/890 (2.2%)	aRR 1.34 (0.44 to 4.08)	8 more per 1000 (from 13 fewer to 69 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Maternal admission to intensive care - Alongside midwifery unit - Multiparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	9/806 (1.1%)	17/1054 (1.6%)	aRR 0.71 (0.27 to 1.87)	5 fewer per 1000 (from 12 fewer to 14 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Spontaneous vaginal birth - Alongside midwifery unit - Nulliparous												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI >35kg/m ²	BMI ≤35kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	226/312 (72.4%)	662/890 (74.4%)	aRR 0.97 (0.88 to 1.07)	22 fewer per 1000 (from 89 fewer to 52 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Spontaneous vaginal birth - Alongside midwifery unit - Multiparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	776/806 (96.3%)	986/1055 (93.5%)	aRR 1 (0.98 to 1.02)	0 fewer per 1000 (from 19 fewer to 19 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Instrumental birth - Alongside midwifery unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	43/312 (13.8%)	155/890 (17.4%)	aRR 0.83 (0.53 to 1.3)	30 fewer per 1000 (from 82 fewer to 52 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Instrumental birth - Alongside midwifery unit - Multiparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	12/808 (1.5%)	26/1056 (2.5%)	aRR 0.6 (0.22 to 1.64)	10 fewer per 1000 (from 19 fewer to 16 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Intrapartum caesarean birth - Alongside midwifery unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	43/312 (13.8%)	73/890 (8.2%)	aRR 1.62 (0.98 to 2.68)	51 more per 1000 (from 2 fewer to 138 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Intrapartum caesarean birth - Alongside midwifery unit - Multiparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	10/808 (1.2%)	7/1056 (0.66%)	aRR 1.8 (0.52 to 6.23)	5 more per 1000 (from 3 fewer to 35 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Category 1 or 2 caesarean birth - Alongside midwifery unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	38/312 (12.2%)	58/890 (6.5%)	aRR 1.8 (1.05 to 3.09)	52 more per 1000 (from 3 more to 136 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI >35kg/m ²	BMI ≤35kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Category 1 or 2 caesarean birth - Alongside midwifery unit - Multiparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	8/808 (0.99%)	5/1056 (0.47%)	aRR 2.1 (0.48 to 9.19)	5 more per 1000 (from 2 fewer to 39 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Postpartum haemorrhage - Alongside midwifery unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	16/312 (5.1%)	15/890 (1.7%)	aRR 3.01 (1.24 to 7.31)	34 more per 1000 (from 4 more to 106 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Postpartum haemorrhage - Alongside midwifery unit - Multiparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	15/806 (1.9%)	21/1055 (2%)	aRR 0.89 (0.41 to 1.93)	2 fewer per 1000 (from 12 fewer to 19 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Shoulder dystocia - Alongside midwifery unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	3/312 (0.96%)	11/890 (1.2%)	aRR 0.79 (0.14 to 4.46)	3 fewer per 1000 (from 11 fewer to 43 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Shoulder dystocia - Alongside midwifery unit - Multiparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	12/808 (1.5%)	17/1056 (1.6%)	aRR 0.84 (0.31 to 2.28)	3 fewer per 1000 (from 11 fewer to 21 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Neonatal unit admission - Alongside midwifery unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	12/312 (3.8%)	29/886 (3.3%)	aRR 0.92 (0.38 to 2.23)	3 fewer per 1000 (from 20 fewer to 40 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Neonatal unit admission - Alongside midwifery unit - Multiparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ¹	none	19/806 (2.4%)	20/1054 (1.9%)	aRR 1.1 (0.46 to 2.63)	2 more per 1000 (from 10 fewer to 31 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT
Initiation of breastfeeding - Alongside midwifery unit - Nulliparous												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	BMI >35kg/m ²	BMI ≤35kg/m ²	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	229/312 (73.4%)	693/886 (78.2%)	aRR 0.97 (0.87 to 1.08)	23 fewer per 1000 (from 102 fewer to 63 more)	HIGH	IMPORTANT
Initiation of breastfeeding - Alongside midwifery unit - Multiparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	502/806 (62.3%)	747/1054 (70.9%)	aRR 0.92 (0.85 to 1)	57 fewer per 1000 (from 106 fewer to 0 more)	HIGH	IMPORTANT
Transfer to obstetric - Alongside midwifery unit - Nulliparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	151/312 (48.4%)	375/890 (42.1%)	aRR 1.18 (0.98 to 1.42)	76 more per 1000 (from 8 fewer to 177 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT
Transfer to obstetric - Alongside midwifery unit - Multiparous												
1 (Rowe 2018)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ²	none	118/808 (14.6%)	134/1056 (12.7%)	aRR 1.12 (0.84 to 1.49)	15 more per 1000 (from 20 fewer to 62 more)	MODERATE	IMPORTANT

aRR: adjusted risk ratio (for Rowe 2018: maternal age, ethnic group, gestational age at admission (completed weeks), Children in Low-income Families Measure quintile, parity (previous pregnancies ≥24 weeks), pre-existing risk factors (none, ≥1 clear, ≥1 possible); BMI: body mass index; CI: confidence interval
1 95% CI crosses 2 MIDs
2 95% CI crosses 1 MID

Table 11: Evidence profiles for comparison 8: Home versus Obstetric unit (for women with a mean booking BMI 18.5 – 24.9 kg/m²)

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Home	Obstetric Unit	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Spontaneous birth - Nulliparous												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Home	Obstetric Unit	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	3237/4332 (74.7%)	5916/9986 (59.2%)	aRR 1.32 (1.26 to 1.38)	190 more per 1000 (from 154 more to 225 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Spontaneous birth - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	11301/11632 (97.2%)	7475/8559 (87.3%)	aRR 1.1 (1.09 to 1.11)	87 more per 1000 (from 79 more to 96 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Instrumental birth - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	575/4359 (13.2%)	2201/10039 (21.9%)	aRR 0.51 (0.44 to 0.59)	107 fewer per 1000 (from 90 fewer to 123 fewer)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Instrumental birth - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	107/11733 (0.91%)	482/8616 (5.6%)	aRR 0.15 (0.12 to 0.19)	48 fewer per 1000 (from 45 fewer to 49 fewer)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Caesarean birth - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	356/4359 (8.2%)	1545/10039 (15.4%)	aRR 0.57 (0.47 to 0.69)	66 fewer per 1000 (from 48 fewer to 82 fewer)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Caesarean birth - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	78/11733 (0.66%)	446/8616 (5.2%)	aRR 0.15 (0.1 to 0.23)	44 fewer per 1000 (from 40 fewer to 47 fewer)	HIGH	CRITICAL

aRR: adjusted risk ratio (for Hollowell 2015: maternal age, ethnic group, understanding of English, marital or partner status, Index of Multiple Deprivation score, parity (previous pregnancies ≥ 24 weeks), gestation at delivery); CI: confidence interval

Table 12: Evidence profile for comparison 9: Freestanding versus Obstetric unit (for women with a mean booking BMI 18.5 – 24.9 kg/m²)

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Freestanding midwifery unit	Obstetric unit	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Spontaneous birth - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	3909/5032 (77.7%)	5916/9986 (59.2%)	aRR 1.28 (1.23 to 1.33)	166 more per 1000 (from 136 more to 196 more)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Spontaneous birth - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	5704/5890 (96.8%)	7475/8559 (87.3%)	aRR 1.1 (1.08 to 1.12)	87 more per 1000 (from 70 more to 105 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Instrumental birth - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	604/5047 (12%)	2201/10039 (21.9%)	aRR 0.49 (0.41 to 0.59)	112 fewer per 1000 (from 90 fewer to 129 fewer)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Instrumental birth - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	69/5934 (1.2%)	482/8616 (5.6%)	aRR 0.19 (0.13 to 0.28)	45 fewer per 1000 (from 40 fewer to 49 fewer)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Caesarean birth - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	342/5047 (6.8%)	1545/10039 (15.4%)	aRR 0.51 (0.42 to 0.62)	75 fewer per 1000 (from 58 fewer to 89 fewer)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Caesarean birth - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	44/5934 (0.74%)	446/8616 (5.2%)	aRR 0.18 (0.15 to 0.22)	42 fewer per 1000 (from 40 fewer to 44 fewer)	HIGH	CRITICAL

aRR: adjusted risk ratio (for Hollowell 2015: maternal age, ethnic group, understanding of English, marital or partner status, Index of Multiple Deprivation score, parity (previous pregnancies ≥24weeks), gestation at delivery; CI: confidence interval

1 95% CI crosses 1 MID

Table 13: Evidence profile for comparison 10: Alongside midwifery unit versus Obstetric unit (for women with a mean booking BMI 18.5 – 24.9 kg/m²)

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Alongside midwifery unit	Obstetric unit	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Spontaneous birth - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	5747/7962 (72.2%)	5916/9986 (59.2%)	aRR 1.18 (1.12 to 1.24)	107 more per 1000 (from 71 more to 142 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Spontaneous birth – Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	7529/7942 (94.8%)	7475/8559 (87.3%)	aRR 1.07 (1.05 to 1.09)	61 more per 1000 (from 44 more to 79 more)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Instrumental birth - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	1275/8032 (15.9%)	2201/10039 (21.9%)	aRR 0.73 (0.62 to 0.86)	59 fewer per 1000 (from 31 fewer to 83 fewer)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Instrumental birth - Multiparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	185/8022 (2.3%)	482/8616 (5.6%)	aRR 0.46 (0.35 to 0.6)	30 fewer per 1000 (from 22 fewer to 36 fewer)	HIGH	CRITICAL
Caesarean birth - Nulliparous												
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ¹	none	618/8032 (7.7%)	1545/10039 (15.4%)	aRR 0.59 (0.42 to 0.83)	63 fewer per 1000 (from 26 fewer to 89 fewer)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Caesarean birth - Multiparous												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Alongside midwifery unit	Obstetric unit	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
1 (Hollowell 2015)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	85/8022 (1.1%)	446/8616 (5.2%)	aRR 0.24 (0.17 to 0.34)	39 fewer per 1000 (from 34 fewer to 43 fewer)	HIGH	CRITICAL

aRR: adjusted risk ratio (for Hollowell 2015: maternal age, ethnic group, understanding of English, marital or partner status, Index of Multiple Deprivation score, parity (previous pregnancies ≥ 24 weeks), gestation at delivery); CI: confidence interval
1 95% CI cross 1 MID