



The Preterm Quality of Care (PQoC) group- Using QI initiatives to improve patient care!



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Background and Aims

The PQoC group is a team of clinicians and nurses who audit monthly the care inborn babies receive born less than 30 weeks gestation. Research has shown the importance of a number of aspects of their care which have a significant impact on their morbidity and mortality – namely delayed cord clamping (DCC), maintaining normothermia (using a plastic bag at birth), and early feeding with maternal expressed colostrum. Evidence also shows the benefit of avoiding early intubation and mechanical ventilation.

With regularly rotating staff with differing levels of experience, the aim was to produce effective tools to ensure adherence to the guideline, accurate documentation and visual reminders of the importance of key aspects of care.

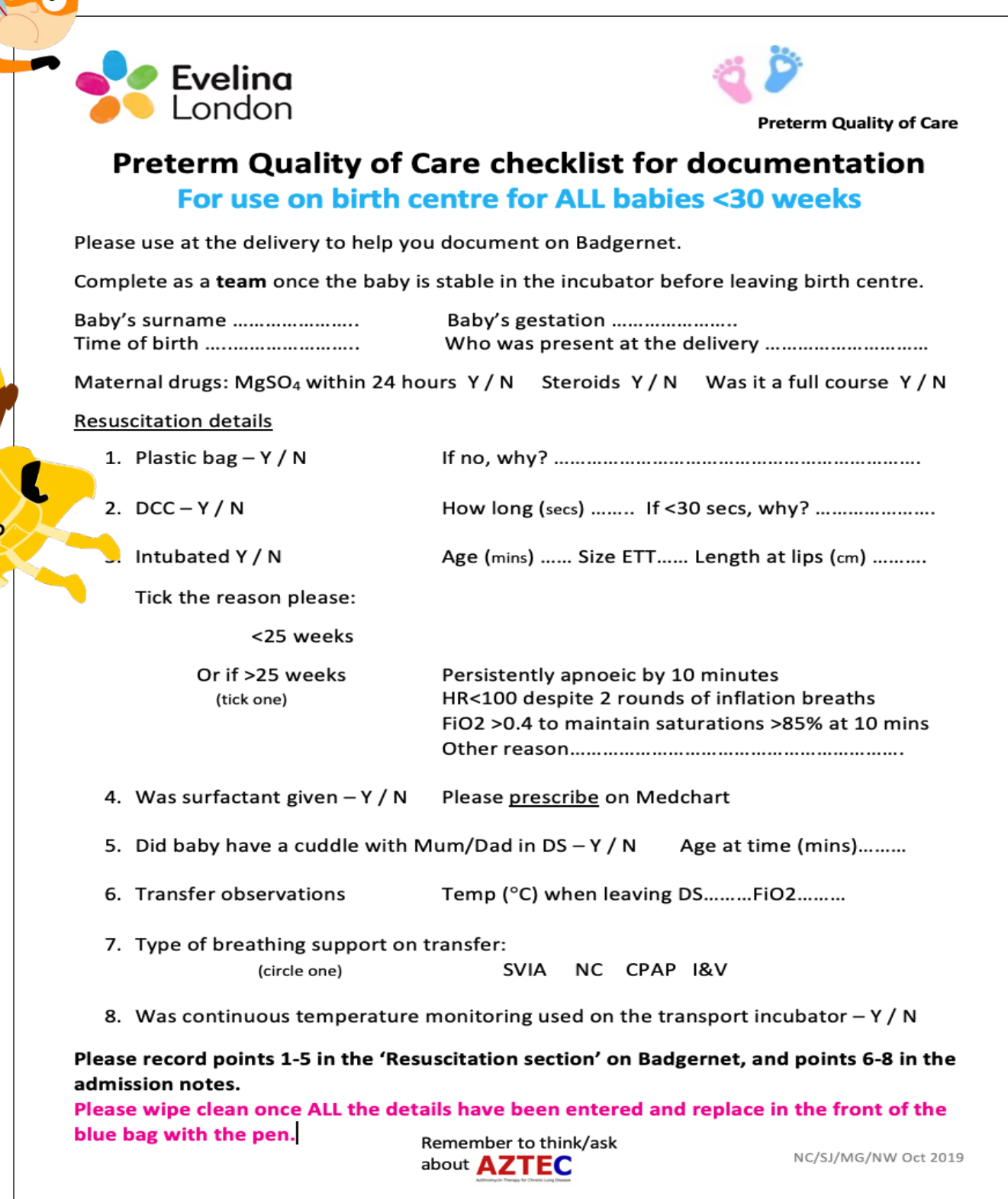
Method

Monthly data was collected for all inborn babies less than 30 weeks gestation using the electronic notes system.

This was analysed for the 4 months before and after the intervention in October 2019.

Intervention introduced in October 2019

- A re-useable checklist was introduced to be used at all extreme preterm deliveries.
- A 'live' noticeboard. The superhero babies seen on this poster were designed and created to use on the board and are updated as part of a debrief for staff after the delivery. The areas focused on since the launch are seen in the bar chart below. The board is located outside the staff room so a visual reminder for everyone (see picture).

Preterm Quality of Care checklist for documentation
For use on birth centre for ALL babies <30 weeks

Please use at the delivery to help you document on Badgernet.

Complete as a **team** once the baby is stable in the incubator before leaving birth centre.

Baby's surname Baby's gestation
Time of birth Who was present at the delivery

Maternal drugs: MgSO₄ within 24 hours Y / N Steroids Y / N Was it a full course Y / N

Resuscitation details

1. Plastic bag – Y / N If no, why?
2. DCC – Y / N How long (secs) If <30 secs, why?
3. Intubated Y / N Age (mins) Size ETT..... Length at lips (cm)

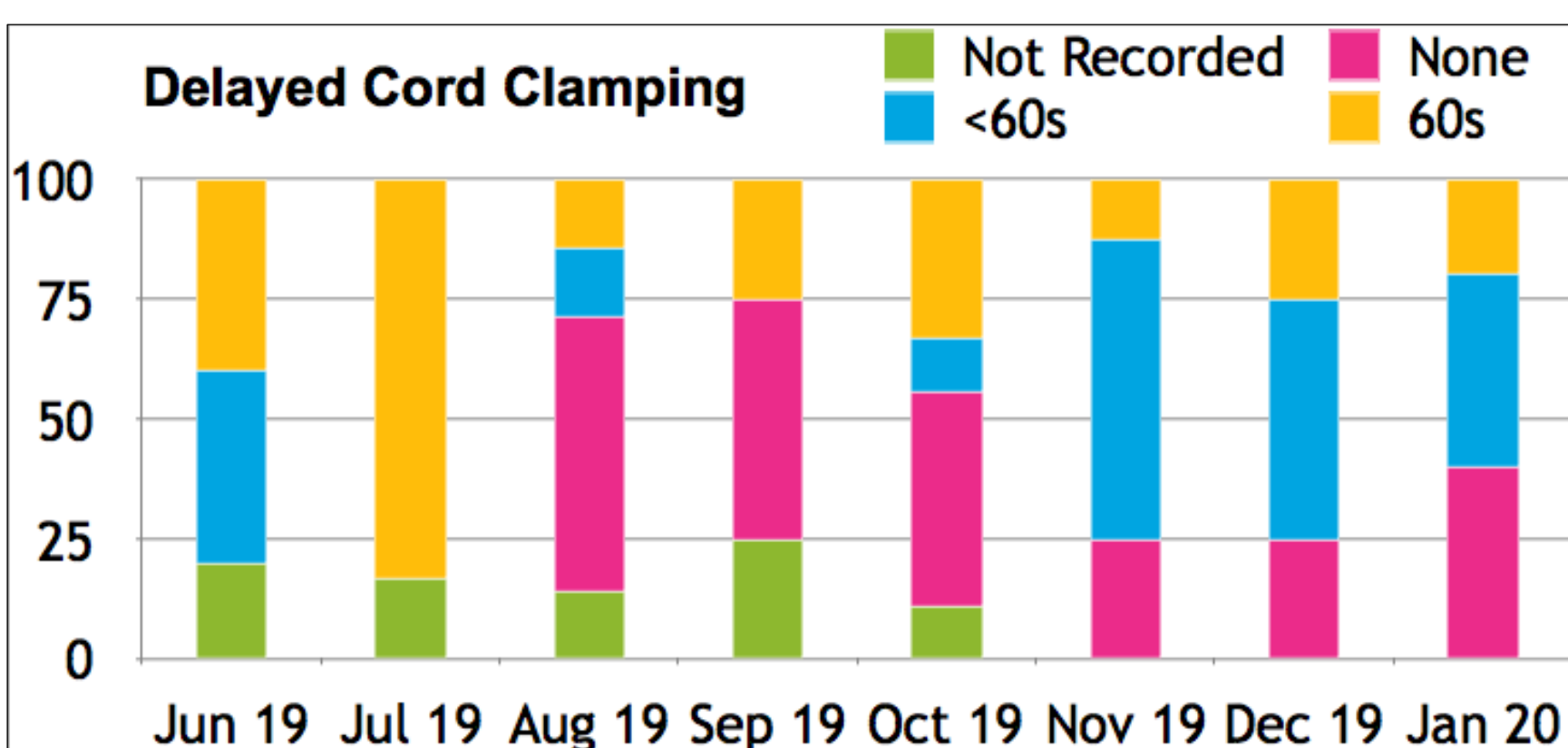
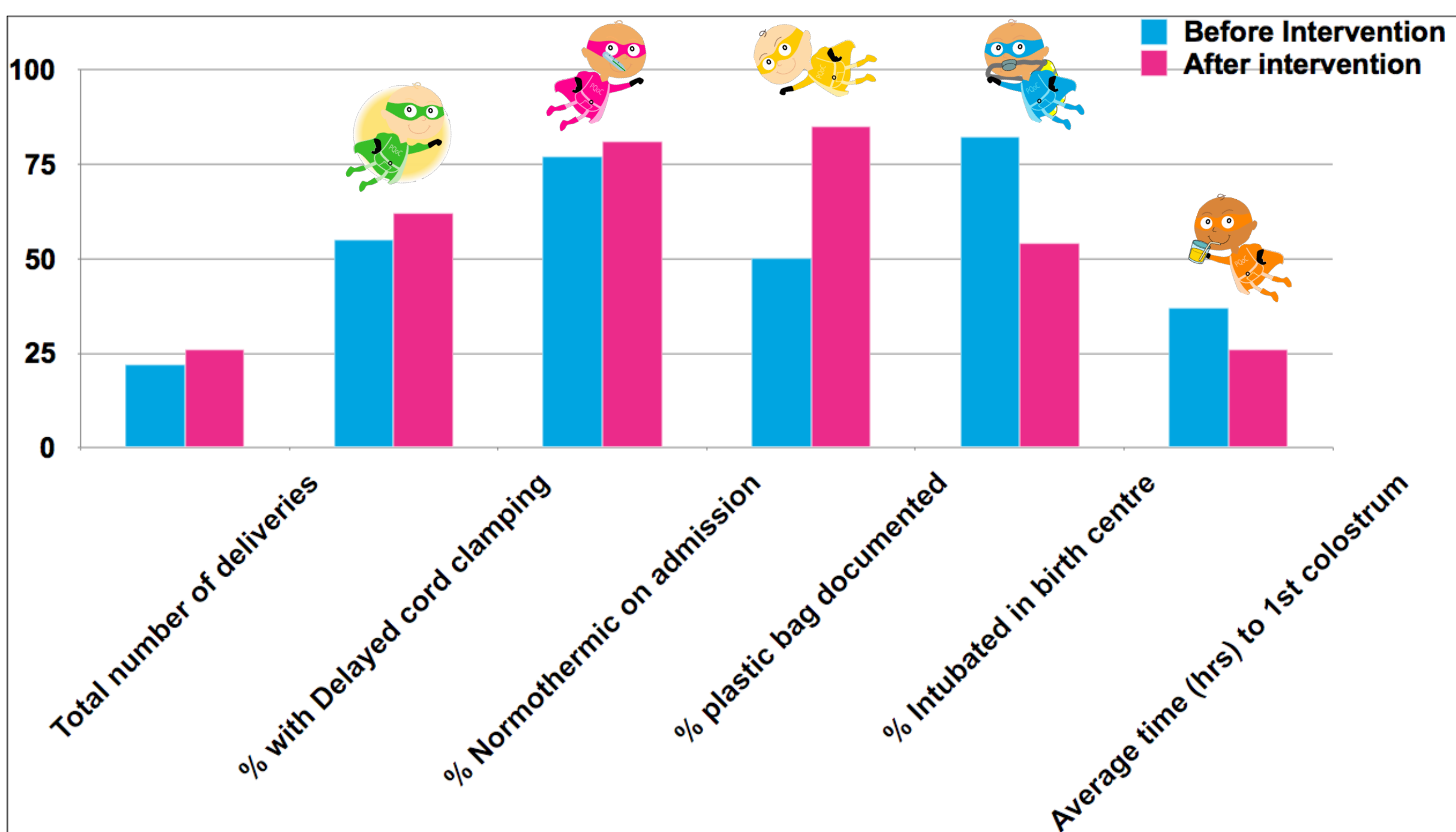
Tick the reason please:
<25 weeks
Or if >25 weeks (tick one)
Persistently apnoeic by 10 minutes
HR<100 despite 2 rounds of inflation breaths
FIO₂>0.4 to maintain saturations >85% at 10 mins
Other reason

4. Was surfactant given – Y / N Please prescribe on Medchart
5. Did baby have a cuddle with Mum/Dad in DS – Y / N Age at time (mins).....
6. Transfer observations Temp (°C) when leaving DS.....FIO₂.....
7. Type of breathing support on transfer: (circle one) SVIA NC CPAP I&V
8. Was continuous temperature monitoring used on the transport incubator – Y / N

Please record points 1-5 in the 'Resuscitation section' on Badgernet, and points 6-8 in the admission notes.
Please wipe clean once ALL the details have been entered and replace in the front of the blue bag with the pen.

Remember to think/ask about **AZTEC**

NC/SJ/MG/NW Oct 2019



Look at our improved care now

- Increased rates of delayed cord clamping (DCC)
- More of us have temperature in range
- Better plastic bag documentation
- Less of us are intubated in BC
- Colostrum is being given faster



Moving Forwards

Room for improvement: Length of time for DCC (aim for 60 secs) and decreased time in hours for 1st colostrum (aim 8 hours.) We will be changing the aspects of care we focus on for the next 3 months and are considering changing the location of the live board in order to debrief more privately. We regularly update the checklist when improvements arise.

Exciting new projects are coming soon: Colostrum Counts and Delivery Suite cuddles

The PQoC group are very passionate about providing preterm babies with optimal care from birth and demonstrate the efficacy of the QI approach in achieving better patient care, we continually strive to improve further.