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This is the third Maternity Survey e-bulletin from the Coordination Centre. It contains updated key dates, as well as information about the draft survey instruction manuals that have been published today.

Draft survey instruction manuals published

The instruction manuals for the Maternity Survey 2015 have been published today in draft form. Section 251 approval has been conditionally granted for the survey, and we hope to receive final approval in late March, after which we will be able to publish the final versions of the instruction manuals, as well as the other sampling and survey documents.

The draft instruction manual for trusts working with an approved contractor can be found on the NHS surveys website here: http://www.nhssurveys.org/survey/1550, and the draft instruction manual for in-house trusts can be found here: http://www.nhssurveys.org/survey/1549.

Please ensure you follow the instructions carefully, in order to comply with data protection and section 251 requirements, and to ensure the comparability of results between trusts. We will let you know when the final versions are published, but in the meantime please email mat.cc@pickereurope.ac.uk if you have any questions.

Updated key dates

There have been some changes to the key dates for the survey, including a lengthening of the sample checking period which is now expected to begin on April 6th.

PLEASE NOTE: the dates below are currently provisional, pending final Section 251 approval.

- Draft survey instruction manuals published 2nd March
- Published following final Section 251 approval (expected late March 2015)
    - Final instruction manuals
    - Sampling documents
    - Other survey documents (questionnaire, covering letters etc.)
    - Guidance on attributing antenatal and postnatal care
- Sample checking: 6th April – 1st May 2015
- Antenatal and postnatal attribution data file deadline: 29th May 2015
- Fieldwork: 27th April – 28th August 2015
- Data deadline: 4th September 2015

For further information, please see our website: www.nhssurveys.org/surveys/825, or contact us at mat.cc@pickereurope.ac.uk or on 01865 208127.