

# Let's Talk About Sex, Yes Baby

## The guidelines

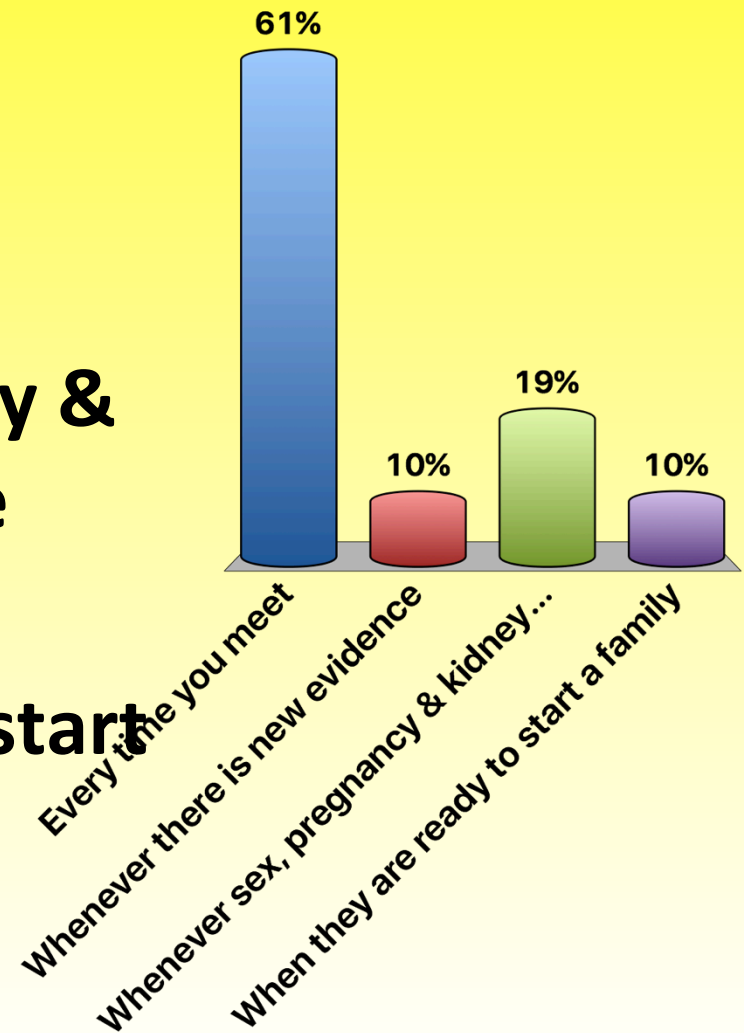
Dr Matt Hall

Consultant Nephrologist

Nottingham University Hospitals

# When is the best time to talk to patients about sex and pregnancy?

- A. Every time you meet
- B. Whenever there is new evidence
- C. Whenever sex, pregnancy & kidney disease get in the way of each other
- D. When they are ready to start a family





---

## Clinical Practice Guideline Pregnancy and Renal Disease

---

Final Version:	September 2019
Review Date:	September 2024

## **PRE-PREGNANCY CARE**

Contraception  
Fertility  
Optimising medication  
Optimising kidney health  
Setting expectations

## **PREGNANCY CARE**

Optimising medication  
Blood pressure management  
Pre-eclampsia prophylaxis  
VTE prophylaxis  
Anaemia management  
CKD-MBD management  
MDT working  
Renal biopsy  
Delivery planning  
Peripartum care

## **POSTNATAL CARE**

Optimising medication  
Contraception

## **NOT COVERED**

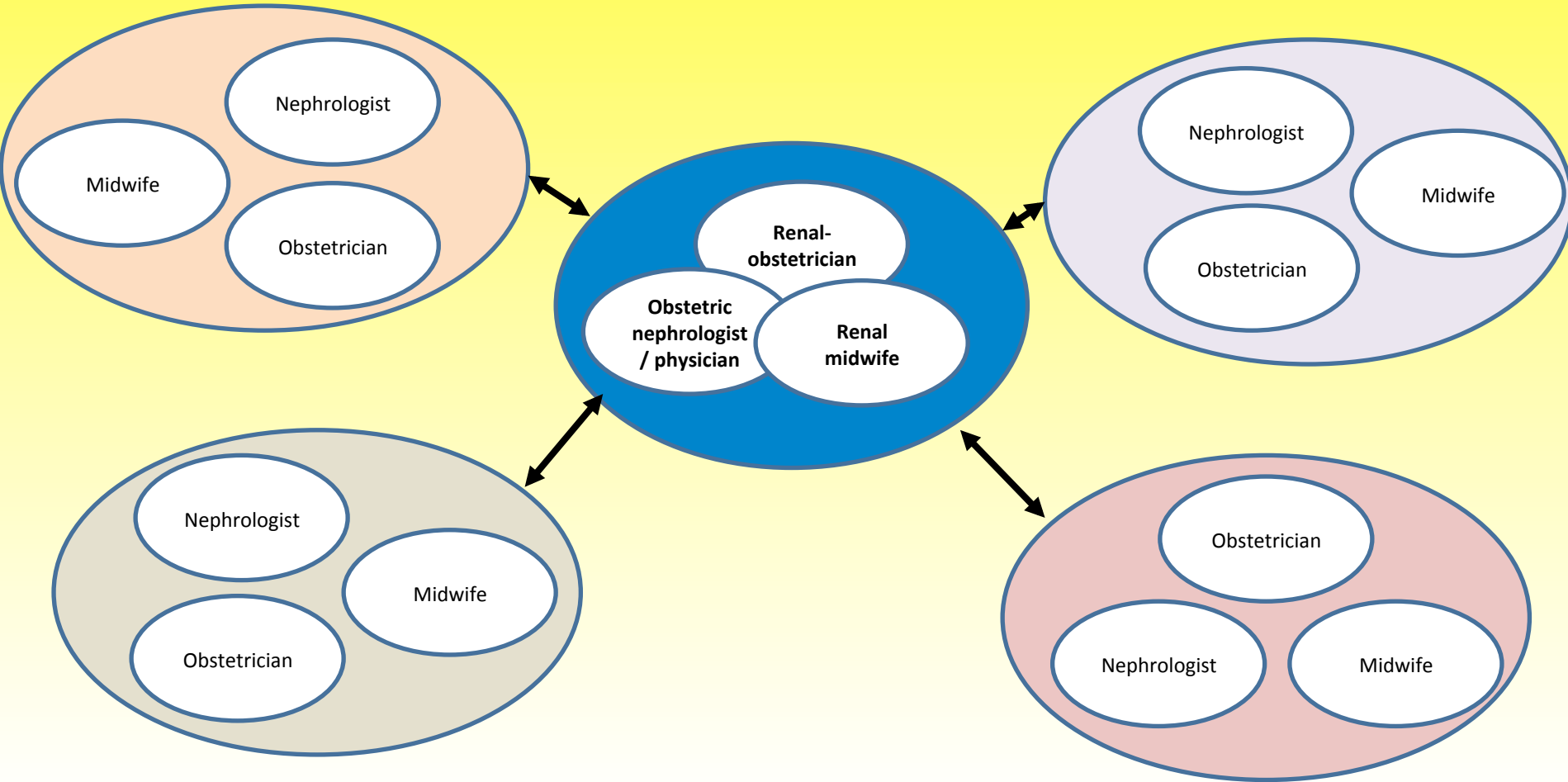
AKI and renal stone disease  
Fertility, contraception, teratogenicity and genetic implications for men with CKD

### Guideline 1.1

We recommend multidisciplinary teams (including a consultant obstetrician, consultant nephrologist/expert physician, and expert midwife or midwifery team) are established to offer advice and care for women with CKD who are pregnant or planning a pregnancy. All healthcare professionals caring for women with CKD should be able to access this MDT (1D).

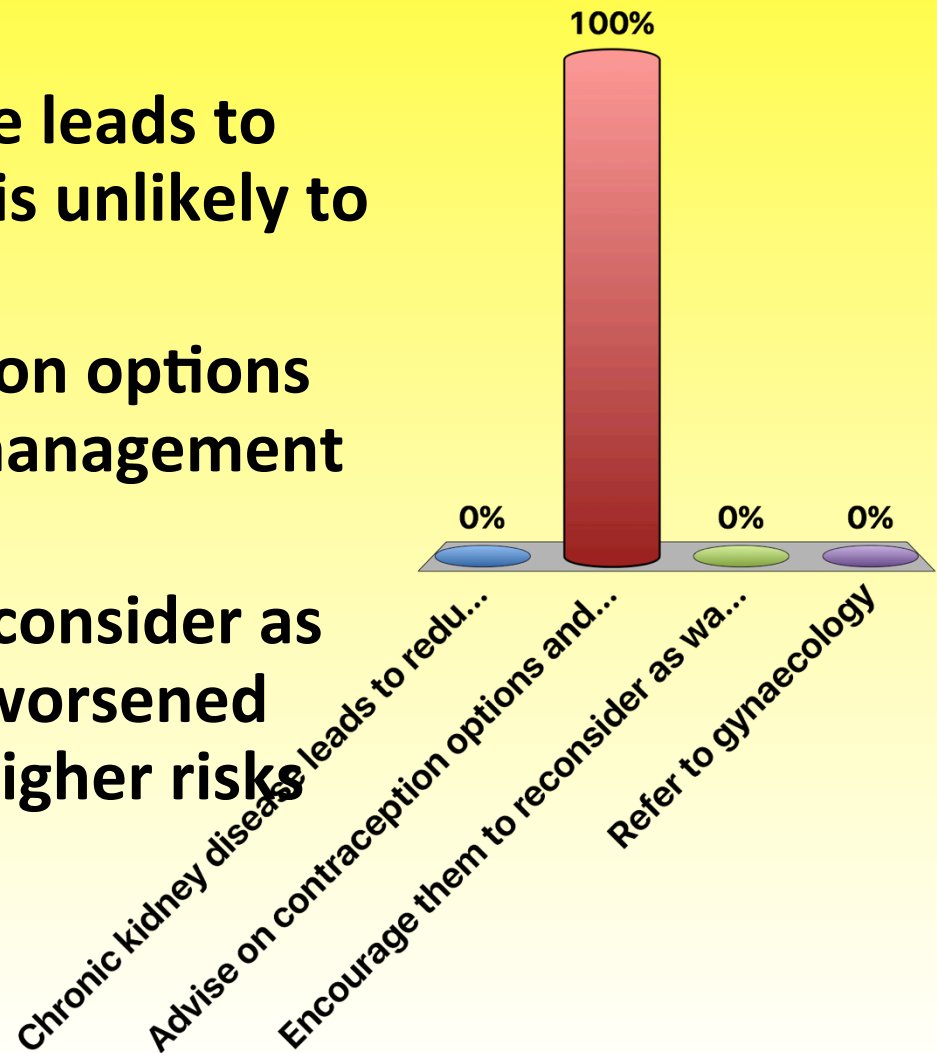
 **A strong start in life for children and young people**

The NHS Long Term Plan



**If a patient with kidney disease does not want to start a family yet, what should the renal team do?**

- A. Chronic kidney disease leads to reduced fertility so it is unlikely to be an issue**
- B. Advise on contraception options and arrange shared management with primary care**
- C. Encourage them to reconsider as waiting will result in worsened kidney function and higher risks in the future**
- D. Refer to gynaecology**



## 2. Medication in pregnancy and lactation

Aspirin  
LMWH  
Labetalol  
Nifedipine  
Methyldopa  
Prednisolone  
Azathioprine  
Ciclosporin  
Tacrolimus  
Hydroxychloroquine  
Penicillins  
Cephalosporins

Eculizumab

Rituximab

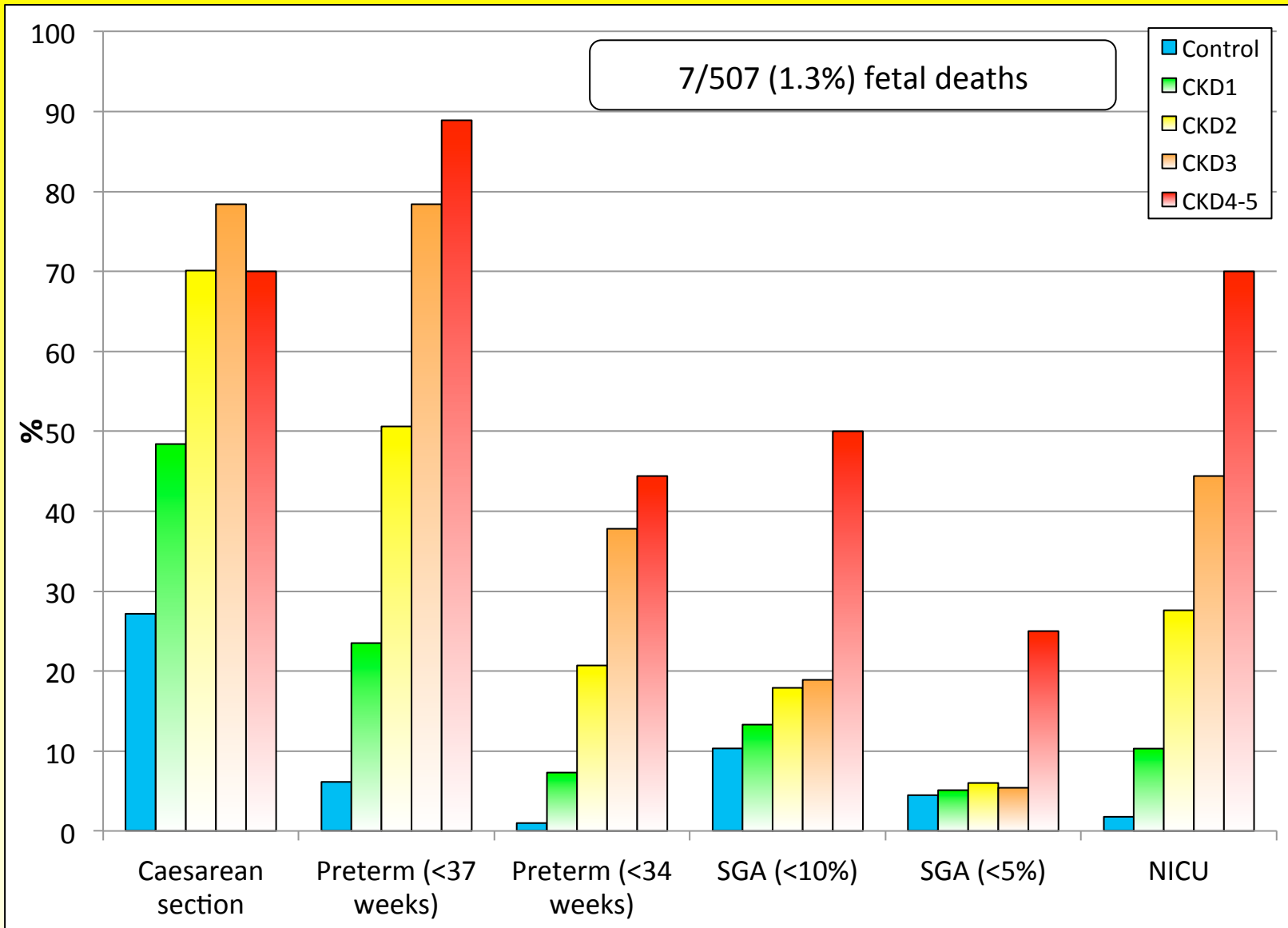
Tacrolimus is OK with  
breastfeeding

Mycophenolate is  
not OK with  
breastfeeding

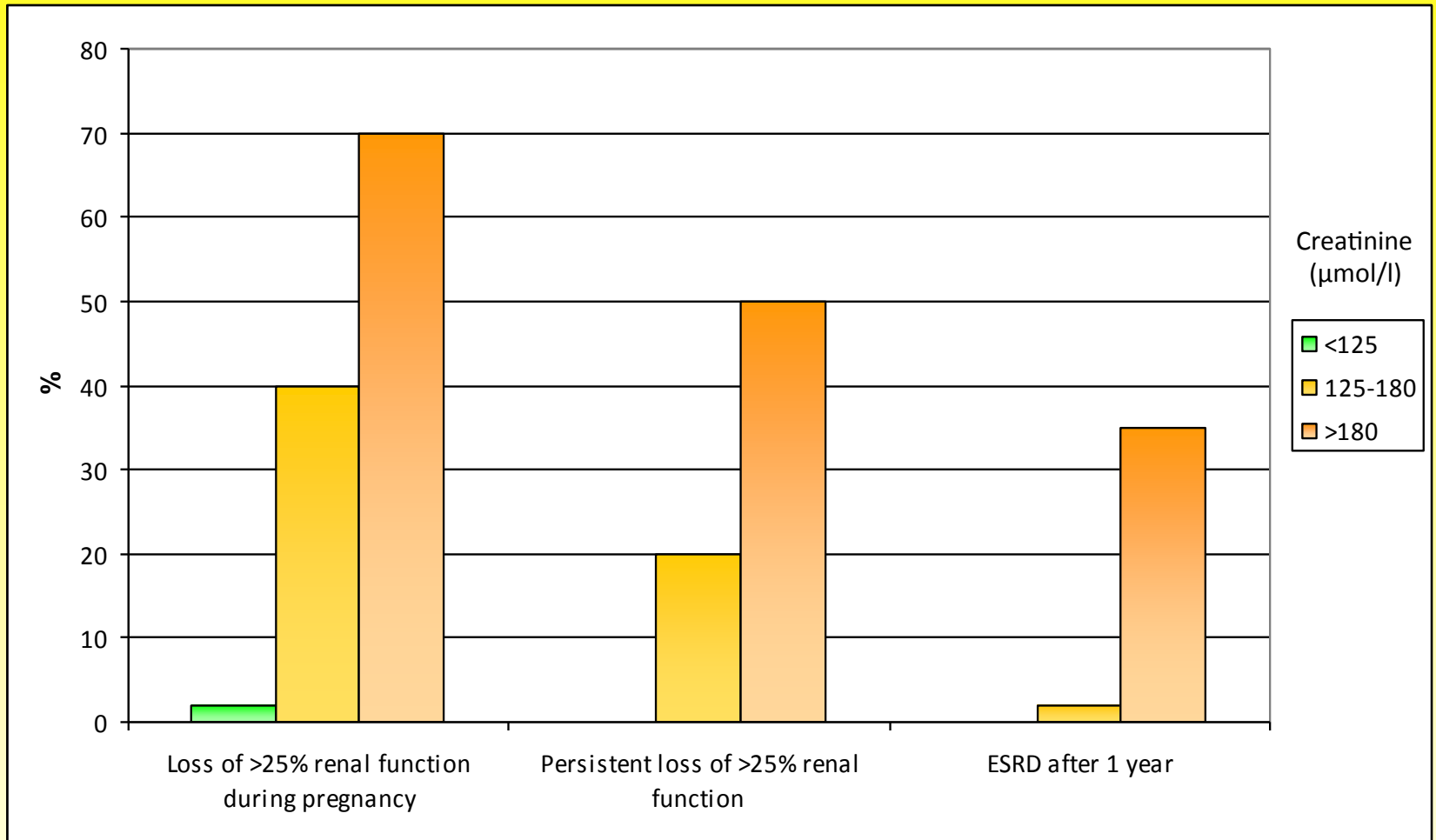
Mycophenolate  
Methotrexate  
Cyclophosphamide  
Sirolimus  
Everolimus  
Tetracyclines  
Quinolones

**Set expectations**





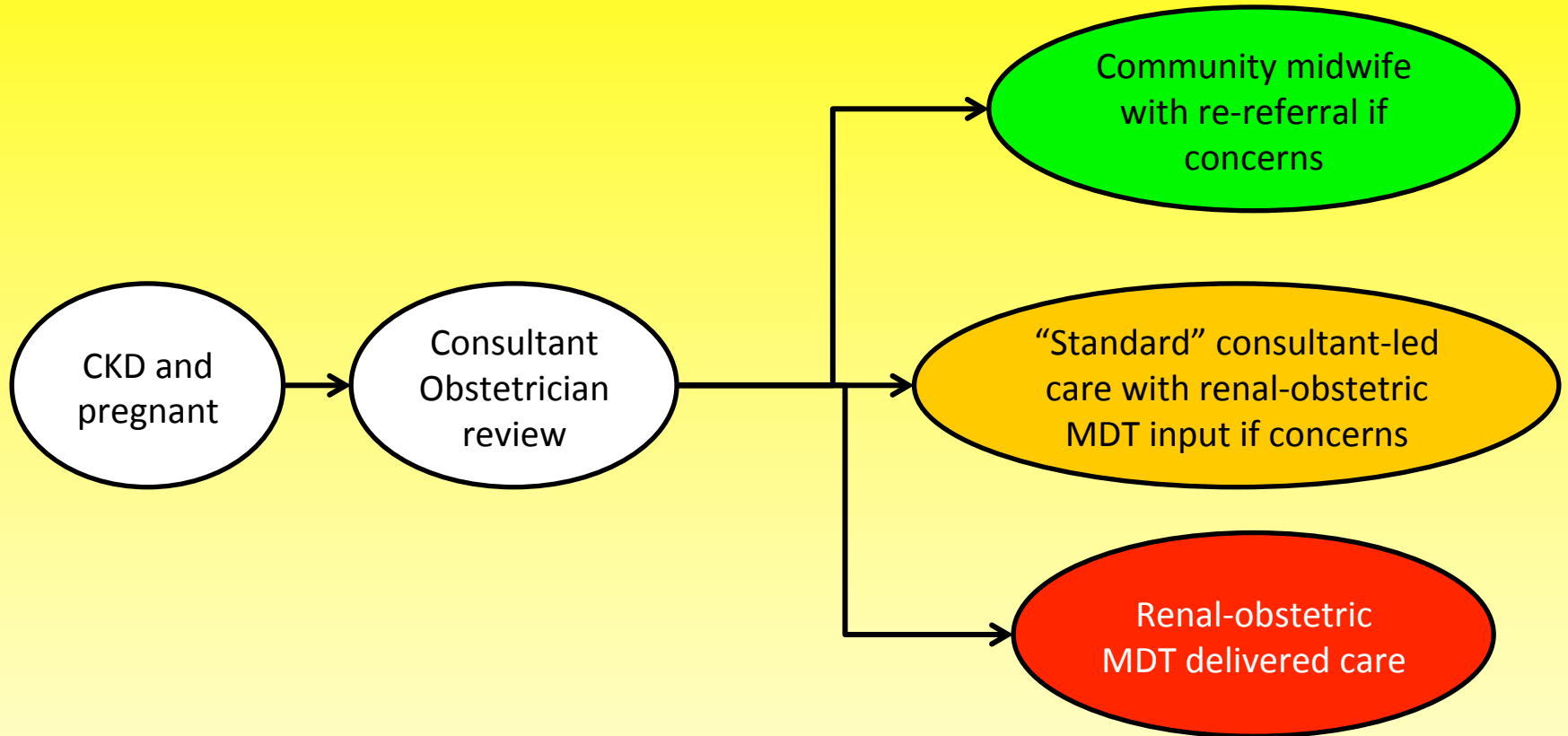
507 pregnancies  
Prospective study  
2000-2013



Adapted from Williams D, Davison J. BMJ 2008;336(7637):211-215

ACE  
inhibitor  
s

## 4.2 Antenatal care



Gestational diabetes screening if taking prednisolone and/or calcineurin inhibitors

Aspirin 75-150mg daily for (almost) all

Target blood pressure of 110-135  
70-85

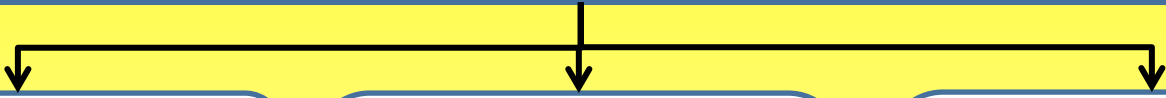
Reduced threshold for investigation and monitoring for pre-eclampsia

VTE prophylaxis with low molecular weight heparin for women with nephrotic-range proteinuria (and maybe less)

Treat to Hb>100g/l with iron (IV\* if indicated) and erythropoietin

In addition to standard care

New-onset nephrotic syndrome?  
New suspected diagnosis of immunologically driven renal disease?  
Rapidly progressive renal disease of unknown cause?



**First trimester**  
Standard renal biopsy

**Second trimester**  
Standard or sitting position renal biopsy or empiric treatment

**Third trimester**  
Empiric treatment or complete pregnancy.  
No biopsy.

**Will histology change management during pregnancy?**

## 5.1 Renal transplantation

Enhanced CNI  
monitoring

Gestational DM  
screening

Discuss delivery plans  
with local transplant  
surgical team



*In addition  
to standard  
care*

## Women receiving maintenance dialysis before pregnancy

Postpone until transplantation when feasible

Long, frequent sessions to improve outcomes

Adjust haemodialysis to target a pre-dialysis mid-week urea < 12.5 mmol/l

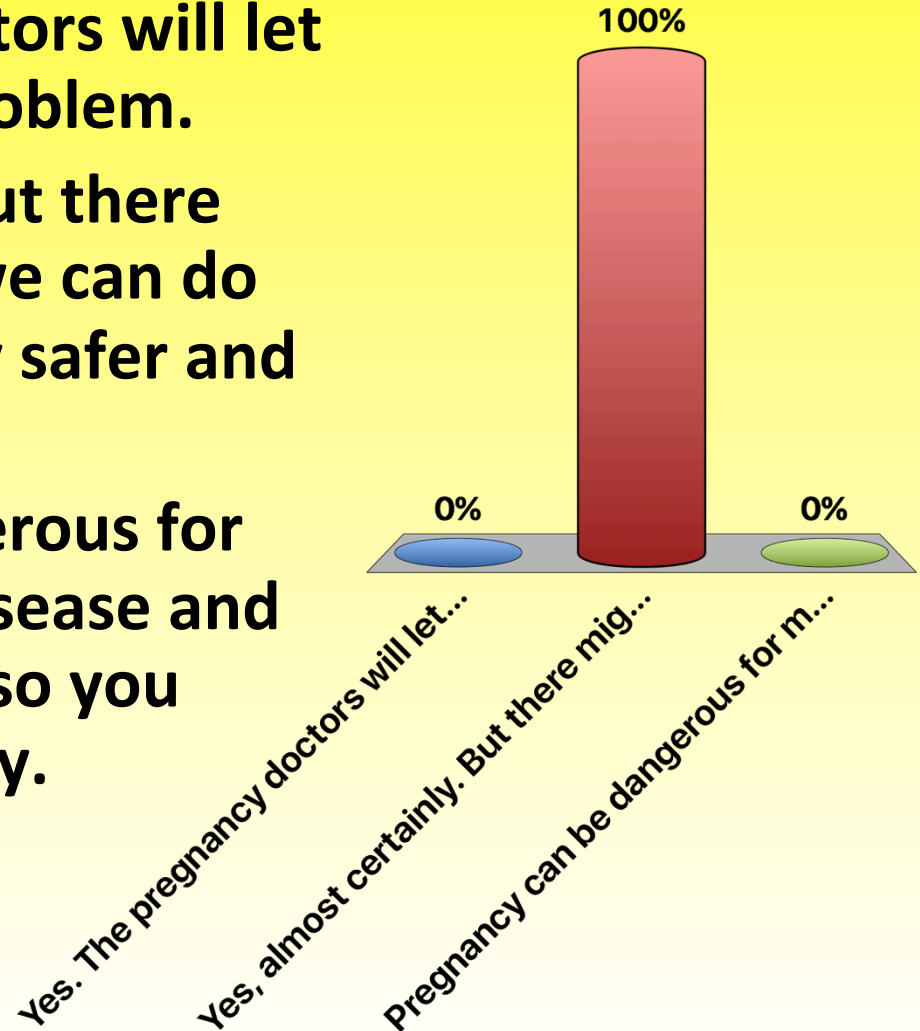
Women receiving PD should convert to HD during pregnancy

Women receiving should start HD during pregnancy if urea is 17-20 mmol/l and risks of preterm delivery outweigh those of dialysis initiation



# What is the best answer to a patient asking, “Can I try to start a family?”

- A. Yes. The pregnancy doctors will let me know if there’s a problem.
- B. Yes, almost certainly. But there might be some things we can do first to make pregnancy safer and more successful.
- C. Pregnancy can be dangerous for mothers with kidney disease and babies die more often, so you should not have a family.



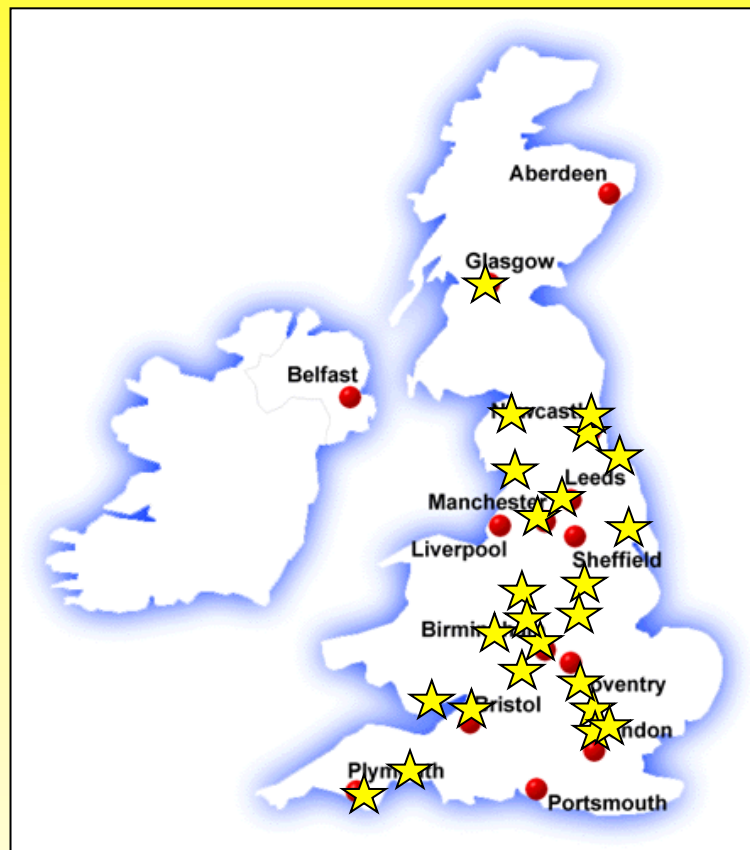
# Acknowledgements

## Nottingham City Hospital

Dr Al Ferraro  
Dr Suzanne Wallace

## UK-CORD

Prof Sue Carr  
Prof Nigel Brunskill  
Prof Liz Lightstone  
Dr Graham Lipkin  
Dr Clara Day  
Dr Sajeda Youssouf



## Pregnancy and CKD RDG

### *Patient Representatives*

Ms Gemma Haskey  
Mr Dennis Crane  
Ms Tess Harris

Dr Nadia Sarween  
Dr Kate Bramham  
Dr Phil Webster  
Dr Kate Wiles  
Dr Ellen Cox  
Prof Cathy Nelson-Piercy  
Dr Joyce Popoola  
Dr Jason Waugh  
Professor David Edwards  
Mrs Floria Cheng  
Mrs Andrea Goodlife  
Mrs Sue Shaw