

## **PROGRESS: priorities for global research in maternal sepsis**

### **Current Project Brief**

#### **Objectives and Background**

Maternal sepsis is a major cause of maternal morbidity and mortality worldwide. It is also found to be a contributing factor in many maternal deaths from other causes. At present, evidence on the best strategies and resources to prevent and manage maternal sepsis, particularly in resource-constrained settings, is lacking. It has therefore been acknowledged by the World Health Organisation that a renewed focus on evidence synthesis to support effective interventions is required.

However, there is currently no consensus on what the focus of maternal sepsis research priorities should be; a necessary step in ensuring research conducted is meaningful and productive. As such, this project seeks to identify the top ten global priorities for research in maternal sepsis in low- and middle-income countries through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including professional policymakers and researchers with a global overview of maternal sepsis, clinicians with hands-on experience of preventing and managing maternal sepsis in a resource-constrained setting, and community stakeholders with an interest in maternal healthcare.

PROGRESS aims to identify a list of ten priorities for global maternal sepsis research by bringing together the knowledge and experience of both professional stakeholders and patient/community stakeholders in resource-constrained settings.

Almost 1000 potential questions on maternal sepsis were submitted by patients, healthcare workers, researchers and policymakers from all global regions in stage 1 of PROGRESS, in September 2024. Further questions were identified from review of research gaps in international guidelines, systematic reviews and previous research prioritization exercises. These questions will be combined and prioritize by both professional stakeholders and patient/community stakeholders during online surveys (stage 2) and a final consensus meeting in 2025 (stage 3).

#### **Geographic location**

Global

#### **Main deliverables**

Scientific publication of ten priorities for global maternal sepsis research

#### **Sources of funding**

National Institute for Health Research, University of Liverpool and HRP

#### **Date Issued**

01 July 2025