

Article Text

Article menu



Original article



Economic implications of multiple births: inpatient hospital costs in the first 5 years of life

J Henderson¹, C Hockley¹, S Petrou¹, M Goldacre², L Davidson³

Correspondence to:

J Henderson

National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, Old Road Campus, University of Oxford, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LF, UK; jane.hendersonperinat.ox.ac.uk

Abstract

Objectives: To estimate long term health service costs for hospital stays associated with singleton, twin, and higher order multiple births up to 5 years of age.

Design: Costs from specialty based data from the English Department of Health's NHS Trust Financial Returns were applied to admissions recorded in the Oxford record linkage study during 1970–1993.

Setting: Oxfordshire and West Berkshire, United Kingdom.

Subjects: A total of 276 897 children, of whom 270 428 were singletons, 6284 were twins, and 185 were higher order multiple births.

Main outcome measures: Duration of hospital admissions during the first 5 years of life. Costs, expressed in £ sterling and valued at 1998–1999 prices, of hospital inpatient services.

Results: The total duration of hospital admissions for twins and triplets were respectively twice and eight times that for singletons, once duration of life had been taken into account. Inpatient costs were significantly higher for multiple births than for singletons, with the cost differences concentrated in the first year of life. Over the first 5 years of life, the adjusted mean cost was estimated at £1532 (95% confidence interval (CI) £1516 to £1548) for singletons, £3826 (95% CI £3724 to £3929) for twins, and £8156 (95% CI £7559 to £8754) for higher order multiple births ($p < 0.0001$).

Conclusions: Multiple births contribute disproportionately to hospital inpatient costs, especially during children's first year of life.

Keywords: Multiple births, hospital inpatient costs, first year of life.

refer to our Privacy Policy. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.2003.043851>

We and our partners process data to provide:

Use precise geolocation data. Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.

Request Permissions

List of Partners (vendors)

Accept

Reject All

Manage preferences

If you wish to reuse any or all of this article please use the link below which will take you to the Copyright Clearance Center's RightsLink service. You will be able to get a quick price and instant permission to reuse the content in many different ways.

Request permissions

View Full Text

Footnotes

Read the full text or download the PDF:

Buy this article (£50)

Subscribe

Log in

Cookies and privacy

We and our **114** partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting "I Accept" enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under "we and our partners process data to provide," whereas selecting "Reject All" or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Cookie settings link on the bottom of the webpage [or the floating icon on the bottom-left of the webpage, if applicable]. Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy. [Cookie policy](#).

We and our partners process data to provide:

Use precise geolocation data. Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.

List of Partners (vendors)

I Accept

Reject All

[Manage preferences](#)



Consultant in London Neonatal Transfer Service

London | £105,504 to £139,882 a year Pa pro rata

We are inviting applications to recruit Two substantive full-time consultant positions in the London Neonatal Transfer service.

Recruiter: Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply for this job](#)

Specialty Doctor in Neonatal Medicine

Southmead | £59,175 to £95,400 per annum

We are looking for an enthusiastic and dynamic specialty doctor to join our Regional Tertiary Neonatal Unit. You will be joining a multi-disciplina...

Recruiter: North Bristol NHS Trust

[Apply for this job](#)

Consultant Neonatologist

Cardiff | £106,000 to £154,760 per annum

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a Consultant Neonatologist post within Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

Recruiter: Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

[Apply for this job](#)

Senior Clinical Fellow (ST 4-8 level) in Neonatal Medicine

London | £59,175 to £75,998 Per Annum

We are really excited to announce Senior clinical fellow (ST4+ equivalent) post in Neonatal Medicine



Cookies and privacy

We and our 114 partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting "I Accept" enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under "we and our partners process data to provide," whereas selecting "Reject All" or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Cookie settings link on the bottom of the webpage [or the floating icon on the bottom-left of the webpage, if applicable]. Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy. [Cookie policy](#).

We and our partners process data to provide:

- Archive
- Use precise geolocation data. Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device.
- Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.
- Most read articles
- List of Partners (vendors)
- Responses

I Accept

Reject All

[Manage preferences](#)

JOURNAL

[About](#)

[Editorial board](#)

[Thank you to our reviewers](#)

[Sign up for email alerts](#)

[Subscribe](#)

AUTHORS

[Instructions for authors](#)

[Submit an article](#)

[Editorial policies](#)

[Open Access at BMJ](#)

[BMJ Author Hub](#)

HELP

[Contact us](#)

[Reprints](#)

[Permissions](#)

[Advertising](#)

[Feedback form](#)



[Website Terms & Conditions](#)

[Privacy & Cookies](#)

Cookies and privacy

[Contact BMJ](#)

We and our 114 partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device.

Selecting "Accept" enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under "we and our partners process data to provide," whereas selecting "Reject All" or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled,

some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Cookie settings link on the bottom of the webpage (or the floating icon on the bottom left of the webpage, if applicable). Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy. [Cookie policy](#).

We and our partners process data to provide:

Use precise geolocation data. Actively scan device characteristics for identification. Store and/or access information on a device. Personalised advertising and content, advertising and content measurement, audience research and services development.

[List of Partners \(vendors\)](#)

[I Accept](#)

[Reject All](#)

[Manage preferences](#)

Online ISSN: 1468-2052

Print ISSN: 1359-2998

Copyright © 2024 BMJ Publishing Group Ltd & Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. All rights reserved.