**S4 Characteristics of included references**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference ID** | **First author** | **Year of publication** | **Country**Country studied. If not applicable, country first author | **Objective** | **Design** | **Dominant category** |
| [1]\* | Aalfs | 2003 | Netherlands | To explore the role of the general practitioner in referring women for genetic counselling during, instead of before a pregnancy | Questionnaire | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [2]\* | Accortt | 2017 | USA | To examine theory and research on mood and anxiety disorders during theperinatal period with an emphasis on screening recommendations | Literature review | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [3]\* | Allen | 2007 | Ireland | To identify possible mechanisms by which caseload midwifery reduces preterm birth for young childbearing women | Mixed methods consisting of a cohort study and an ethnographic study | Aligning risk and resources |
| [4]\* | Amelink-Verburg | 2008 | Netherlands | To assess the nature and outcome of intrapartum referrals from primary to secondary care within the obstetric system | Retrospective cohort study using a case database | Ensuring safety |
| [5]\* | Amelink-Verburg | 2009 | Netherlands | To assess the trends and patterns of referral from midwives to obstetricians, and the differences in referral patterns between nulliparous and parous women | Retrospective cohort study using a case database | Ensuring safety |
| [6]\* | Amelink-Verburg | 2010 | Netherlands | To study the evolution of the concept of ‘‘normality’’ by comparing the development and the contents of the consecutive versions of guidelines  | Review of guidelines  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [7]\* | Ammari | 1995 | England | To study the adherence to the locally-agreed policy of screening by clinical risk factors | Retrospective cohort study using a case records | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [8]\* | Anderson | 1995 | USA | To describe the outcomes of planned home births attended by certified nurse-midwives  | Retrospective survey | Ensuring safety |
| [9]\* | Badgery-Parker | 2012 | Australia | To assess the frequency and outcomes of preterm hospitaladmissions during pregnancy, with a focus on transfers to higher levels of care | Population-based cohort study using linked population data | Aligning risk and resources |
| [10]\* | Bahry | 1989 | USA | To present the implementation of the university-based programme of perinatal care, centered on the use of a multidisciplinary health care team and emphasizing a decentralized service model with central referral and management of high risk problems  | Descriptive retrospective cohort study  | Aligning risk and resources |
| [11]\* | Baird | 1996 | Scotland | To evaluate the use of a maternityunit run by general practitioners and midwives, describing the outcome of labor in an unselected group of women and quantifying the contribution made by general practitioners | Retrospective population based review of case records  | Ensuring safety |
| [12]\* | Bais | 2004 | Netherlands | To evaluate the performance of abdominal palpation as a screening test for intrauterine growth retardation in a low risk population, under standard practice conditions | Retrospective population based observational study | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [13]\* | Baker | 1992 | USA | To describe the effect of a project, directing physicians to screen all Medicaid-eligible pregnant women and newborns for specified clinical high risk factors | Retrospective review using a database and case records | Aligning risk and resources |
| [14]\* | Baldwin | 1995 | USA | To test the hypothesis that physicians with greater malpractice claims exposure, either through personal experience or in their practice environment, will use more prenatal resources and have a higher caesarean delivery rate than physicians with lesser claims exposure | Retrospective cohort study using a database data and case records  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [15] | Baldwin | 2019 | Australia | To explored the transitioning of care models | Literature review | Aligning risk and resources |
| [16] | Bernitz | 2011 | Norway | To investigate possible differences in operative delivery rate among low-risk women, randomized to an alongsidemidwifery-led unit or to standard obstetric units within the same hospital  | Randomized controlled trial | Ensuring safety |
| [17] | Bernstein | 2016 | USA | To identify barriers and facilitators to testing and referral from patient and providers’ perspectives | Interviews  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [18]\* | Binders | 2011 | USA | To test the hypothesis that the promotion of national guidelinesrecommending the transfer of high-risk mothers to subspecialtyperinatal centers reduces mortality and morbidity through the reductionof preterm infants delivered at non-tertiary maternity hospitals | A population based cohort study | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [19]\* | Biro | 1991 | Australia | To review the safety of team midwifery care, in terms of perinatal mortality, for pregnant women assessed at their first visit as being at low risk of complications | Retrospective cohort study | Ensuring safety |
| [20]\* | Blix | 2016 | Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland | To describe the indications for transfer to hospital in planned home births, and the proportion of cases in which this occurs | Prospective cohort study | Ensuring safety |
| [21] | Blondel | 2009 | 9 European countries Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and UK (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales) | To study the impact of the organization of obstetric services on the regionalization of care for very pretermbirths | Retrospective cohort study | Ensuring safety |
| [22] | Bode | 2001 | USA | To analyze trends across time in the regionalization of low-birth-weight births and time trends for the association between regionalization and decreased neonatal mortality | Retrospective cohort study | Aligning risk and resources |
| [23] | Bodner | 2017 | Austria | To analyze the maternal and neonatal outcomes of a midwife-led care service was incorporated within the department of obstetrics and fetomaternal medicine | Retrospective cohort study | Ensuring safety |
| [24] | Bolbocean | 2016 | Canada | To estimate the effect of highest levels of neonatal care available at delivery on the risk of developing a non-ambulatory cerebral palsy status | Retrospective cohort study | Ensuring safety |
| [25] | Bovbjerg | 2017 | USA | To examine the independent contributions of a variety of risk factors to birth outcomes among women planning community birth  | Retrospective cohort study | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [26]\* | Britt | 2006 | USA | To evaluate the joint impact of pregnancy risk and the timing of referral of high-risk pregnancies from obstetricians to maternal fetal medicine sub-specialists on gestational age at delivery | Retrospective cohort study | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [27] | Bronstein | 2011 | USA | To examine the factors associated with delivery of preterm infants at neonatal intensive care unit hospitals  | Retrospective cohort study using two databases | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [28] | Butler | 2015 | Ireland | To evaluate midwife-led care antenatal care compared with antenatal care provided in traditional obstetric-led hospital antenatal clinics  | Mixed methods consisting of a chart audit, a postal survey, a focus group and interviews | Ensuring safety |
| [29]\* | Carolan | 2009 | Canada | To explore women's experiences of referral to tertiary care on the basis of uncertain ultrasound findings | Interviews | Ensuring safety |
| [30] | Chambliss | 1992 | USA | To test the hypothesis that the low caesarean birth rate on the midwifery service was a result of patient selection bias  | Randomized blinded clinical trial  | Ensuring safety |
| [31]\* | Cohen | 2015 | France | To assess the knowledge and clinicalattitude of obstetricians and/or gynecologists regardingperiodontal diseases | Cross-sectional study using a questionnaire | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [32] | Cooke | 2004 | Australia | To demonstrate the effectiveness of evidence based models and systems of care on improving patient outcomes | Mixed methods using a literature review, a survey and a panel | Aligning risk and resources |
| [33]\* | Cordero | 1989 | USA | To study the appropriateness of antenatal referrals for patients at risk for premature delivery  | Retrospective cohort study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [34]\* | Craig | 1985 | USA | To examine the use of obstetricalconsultants by family medicine residents and faculty  | Retrospective cohort study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [35] | Crotty | 1990 | Australia | To describe homebirths and indicate aspects that require special attention | Retrospective cohort study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [36]\* | Daemers | 2014 | Netherlands | To assess the impact of obesity on the likelihood of remaining in midwife-led care throughout pregnancy and childbirth | Prospective cohort study | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [37]\* | David | 2006 | Germany | Investigation of the reasons for the transfer of women from a birth center to a hospital in the course of childbirth as well as modalities and effects | Prospective cohort study using a questionnaire | Ensuring safety |
| [38]\* | De Galan-Roosen | 1999 | Netherlands | To establish the distribution of perinatal mortality over the various levels of obstetric care, taking into account the various causes of perinatal mortality | Prospective cohort study using a case database | Ensuring safety |
| [39] | De Jonge | 2009 | Netherlands | To compare perinatal mortality and severe perinatal morbidity between planned home and planned hospital births, among low-risk women who started their labor in primary care | Retrospective cohort study using a case database | Ensuring safety |
| [40]\* | De Jonge | 2011 | Netherlands | To assess whether midwives adjust their care if women are undocumented and have no health insurance | Retrospective matched cohort study | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [41] | De Jonge | 2013 | Netherlands | To test the hypothesis that low risk women at the onset of labor with planned home birth have a higher rate of severe acute maternal morbidity than women with planned hospital birth, and to compare the rate of postpartum hemorrhage and manual removal of placenta | Retrospective cohort study using a linked database | Ensuring safety |
| [42]\* | De Jonge | 2015 | Netherlands | To test the hypothesis that it is possible to select a group of low risk women who can start labor in midwife-led care without having increased rates of severe adverse maternal outcomes compared to women who start labor in secondary care | Retrospective cohort study using a case database | Ensuring safety |
| [43]\* | De Reu | 2010 | Netherlands | To analyze avoidable perinatal mortality in small-for-gestational-age children | Retrospective study using a case database | Ensuring safety |
| [44]\*  | De Weerd | 2001 | Netherlands | To provide an overview of the outcomes from an outpatients' clinic for preconception counselling i and to assess its activities in terms of referring professionals, referral indications, supplementary investigations, counselling and treatment policy | Retrospective study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [45]\* | DeJong | 1981 | USA | To presents data on patient characteristics, birth outcomes of out-of-hospital delivery and freestanding midwifery group | Retrospective review of case record | Ensuring safety |
| [46]\* | Delaney-Black | 1989 | USA | To evaluated antepartum maternal and postnatal infant referrals from five metropolitan hospitals with level I facilities | Retrospective review of delivery room logs and case records | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [47] | Dencker | 2017 | Ireland | To evaluate maternal and neonataloutcomes and transfer rates during six years of midwife led unite sites | Retrospective cohort study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [48]\* | Dijkstra | 2003 | Netherlands  | To study the management and views regarding threatened preterm delivery prevalent in the three professions providing obstetric care | Questionnaire  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [49] | Donohue | 2009 | USA | To investigate prenatal management and outcome of infants born at the border of viability during two periods | Retrospective cohort study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [50]\* | Eden | 2005 | USA | To assess the effect of sub-specialty prenatal care provided to high-risk obstetrical patients in a community perinatal center as a function of whether consultation and referral to a maternal–fetal medicine sub-specialist was at the discretion of the generalist, required by the insurance carrier or by patient choice | Retrospective cohort study using case records | Aligning risk and resources |
| [51] | Eide | 2009 | Norway | To compare intervention rates associated with labor in low-risk women who begin their labor in a midwife-led unit and a conventional care unit | Prospective cohort study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [52]\* | Engjom | 2018 | Norway | To examine the association between availability of obstetric institutions and risk of eclampsia, HELLP-syndrome, or delivery before 35 gestational weeks in pre-eclamptic pregnancies | National population-based retrospective cohort study | Aligning risk and resources |
| [53] | Eskes | 2017 | Netherlands | To assess the underlying risk factors for perinatal mortality in term born small for gestational age infants | Retrospective cohort study using case records | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [54]\* | Evers | 2010 | Netherlands | Compare incidences of perinatal mortality and severe perinatal morbidity between low risk term pregnancies supervised in primary care by a midwife and high risk pregnancies supervised in secondary care by an obstetrician | Prospective cohort study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [55]\* | Evers | 2013 | Netherlands | To assess substandard care factors in the case of delivery-related asphyxia | Prospective cohort study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [56] | Ferndale | 2017 | Australia | To examine how risk shapes interactions between midwives and pregnant women in the context of public hospitals  | Recordings of consultations | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [57]\* | Ferrazzi | 2015 | Italy | To analyze maternal and neonatal outcomes of midwife-led labor in low-risk women at term | Prospective cohort study  | Ensuring safety |
| [58]\* | Finnström | 2006 | Sweden | To evaluate the quality of perinatal care in relation to size of delivery unit and size of catchment area for deliveries to evaluate referral system high risk pregnancies | Retrospective cohort study using two case records databases | Ensuring safety |
| [59] | Fleissig | 1996 | England | To assess the feasibility of obstetric offering community-led maternity care to most women, both those assessed to be at low obstetric risk and those with complicated pregnancies at 'booking' | Retrospective cohort study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [60] | Ford | 1991 | England | To assess the outcome of pregnancyfor women booking for home births | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [61]\* | Fullerton | 1997  | USA | To study the applicability of transfer rates from two freestanding birth centers as a critical clinical indicator | Prospective cohort study using aggregated data summery reports and clinical logs | Ensuring safety |
| [62]\* | Garite | 1995 | USA | To describe our experience with a freestanding birthing center established in conjunction with a university medical center, and to determine the safety and effectiveness of such a program | Prospective using a database | Ensuring safety |
| [63] | Gaudineau | 2013 | France | To compare the intervention rates associated with labor in low-risk women who began their labor in the home-like birth center and the traditional labor ward  | Retrospective study using case records  | Ensuring safety |
| [64]\* | Geerts | 2014 | Netherlands | To compare sense of control, which is a major attribute of the childbirth experience, for women planning home compared to women planning hospital birth under midwife-led care | Retrospective cohort study using a database | Ensuring safety |
| [65] | George | 2018 | Australia | To assess the effectiveness of a midwifery-initiated oral health dental service program in improving uptake of dental services, oral health knowledge, quality of oral health, oral health status and birth outcomes of pregnant women | Multi-center randomized controlled trial | Ensuring safety |
| [66]\* | Giles | 2000 | Australia | To determine whether the introduction of routine fetal fibronectin bedside testing affected costs and transfer rates from referral district hospitals to a tertiary obstetric hospital, as well as direct admissions to a tertiary referral hospital | Prospective audit of cases | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [67] | Gillespie | 2018 | Ireland | To identify the nature, content and accessibility of educational resources available to health professionals caring forpregnant women with heart disease | Scoping literature review  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [68]\* | Godbole | 2013 | England | To assess adherence to the national guidelines for management of Hepatitis B infection in pregnancy | Retrospective audit using case records and discharge summaries | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [69]\* | Goh | 2015 | Australia | To document the outcomes of high-risk obstetric transfers | Prospective observational study of cases  | Ensuring safety |
| [70] | Govaerts | 2017 | Netherlands | To evaluate the pregnancy outcomes in susceptibility loci cases and to establish a protocol for pregnancy management, follow-up and additional investigations | Case evaluation | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [71] | Grigg | 2015 | New Zealand | To examine the transfers from primary maternity units to a tertiary hospital by describing the frequency, timing, reasons and outcomes of those who had antenatal or pre-admission birthplace plan changes, and transfers in labor or postnatally | Mixed methods prospective cohort study using survey data and transfer data | Aligning risk and resources |
| [72] | Gyte | 2009 | England and Wales | To critically appraise a study on the safety of home birth (Mori R, Dougherty M, Whittle M. BJOG 2008;115:554) and assess its contribution to the debate about risks and benefits of planned home birth for women at low risk of complications | Critical appraisal of a published paper | Ensuring safety |
| [73]\* | Hein | 1986 | USA | To describe the Iowa regional perinatal care system and to offer evaluation of the effects of this system on perinatal outcome in the state | Retrospective cohort study using a database | Aligning risk and resources |
| [74] | Hemmeniki | 1990 | Finland | To describe the use of the clinics and to see whether clinics serve as an addition or as an alternative to maternity centers | Mixed methods using case records, interviews and a questionnaire | Aligning risk and resources |
| [75] | Hemminiki | 2011 | Finland | To describe trends in centralization and unplanned out-of-hospital births, perinatal mortality by place of birth, and health and birth outcomes in areas served by hospitals of different levels | Cross-sectional study using a database | Ensuring safety |
| [76]\* | Hollingworth | 2018 | Australia | To describe the outcomes of patients transferred to a hospital with signs of labor at preterm gestations | Retrospective observational study using cases | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [77]\* | Holt | 2001 | Norway | To report a two year study from this isolated rural hospital with the aim of estimating the feasibility and the effectiveness of the case selection process | Prospective cohort study using case records | Aligning risk and resources |
| [78] | Hopkins | 2018 | USA | To define the most common forms of congenital heart disease in pregnancy, outline preconception counselling, discuss the associated morbidity and mortality of each lesion, and review current recommendationsfor management of congenital heart disease in pregnancy | Literature review | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [79]\* | Hueston | 1994 | USA | To examine referral patterns of family physicians who perform obstetrics to determine the effects of referral bias on family physician and obstetrician patient populations | Retrospective review of case records | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [80] | Humphrey | 2017 | Australia | To review the usefulness of the revised pregnancy risk score system andthe integrity of its continuing use | Prospective study using risk score cards | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [81] | Hundley | 1994 | Scotland | To examine whether intrapartum care and delivery of low risk women in a midwife managed delivery unit differs from that in a consultant led labor ward | Randomized controlled trial | Ensuring safety |
| [82]\* | Hutchinson | 2014 | Australia | To determine, in women transferred antenatally for acute admission with high risk pregnancies, the numbers who deliver, the average time from transfer to delivery, and whether the reason for transfer influences the time-to-delivery | Retrospective study using case records | Aligning risk and resources |
| [83] | Hutton | 2009 | Canada | To compare maternal and perinatal/neonatal mortality and morbidity and intrapartum intervention rates for women attended by midwives who planned a home birth compared with similar low-risk women who planned a hospital birth  | Retrospective cohort study using a database | Ensuring safety |
| [84]\* | Jackson | 2006 | England | To explore women’s views on being referred to and attending a specialist antenatal hypertension clinic | Interviews | Ensuring safety |
| [85] | James | 2017 | UK (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales) | To determine what constitutes high dependency care in obstetric units remote from tertiary referral centers | Delphi study | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [86] | Janssen | 2003 | Canada | To evaluate accountability among midwives, defined as profession of safe and appropriate care and maintenance of standards of communication | Case records | Ensuring safety |
| [87] | Jeffery | 2017 | England | To explore midwives’ experiences of performing maternal observations | Focus groups | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [88]\* | Jordan | 1995 | Canada | To determine referral rates, to study the nature of consultations with obstetricians, and to examine how both patient and physician characteristics affect referrals | Retrospective review of case records | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [89]\* | Kim | 2010 | USA | To examine mental health referrals outcomes among obstetric patients at risk for depression | Interviews | Aligning risk and resources |
| [90]\* | Kirke | 2010 | Australia | To explores how safe is rural general practitioner obstetrics | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [91] | Knight | 2018 | UK (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales) | To review the care of women with severe morbidity during or shortly after pregnancy in addition to those who die | Document review | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [92]\* | Knox | 1984 | USA | To explore how and under what circumstances to transport in-utero | Retrospective review of case records | Aligning risk and resources |
| [93] | Kollée | 1998 | Netherlands | To determine changes in referral of preterm newborns | Retrospective cohort study using a case database | Ensuring safety |
| [94]\* | Koshida | 2015 | Japan | To investigate stillbirth, and to classify the possibilities of preventable stillbirths and collectedrecommendations for prevention | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [95]\* | Kruske | 2015 | Australia | To describe the reasons for transfer to and from the unit, transfer times and the clinical health outcomes of all women and their babies | Retrospective review of audit data and case records | Ensuring safety |
| [96]\* | Kruske | 2016 | Australia | To confirm and describe how primary maternity care units operate | Cross- sectional study using a survey | Aligning risk and resources |
| [97]\* | Kuliukas | 2015 | Australia | To describe the overall labor and birth experience of partners within the context of an intrapartum transfer occurring from a low risk midwifery-led, woman-centered unit to an obstetric unit | Interviews  | Ensuring safety |
| [98]\* | Kwong | 2018 | USA | To evaluate physician practices and knowledge regarding Hepatitis B in women diagnosed perinatally | Survey | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [99] | Lagendijk | 2018 | Netherlands | To investigate whether a combination of risk assessment focused on non-medical risk factors, lifestyle factors, and medical risk factors, with subsequent institution of risk-specific care pathways, and multidisciplinary consultation between care providers from the curative and the public health sector reduced adverse pregnancy outcomes | Cluster randomized controlled trial  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [100]\* | Lalor | 2007 | Ireland | To explore women’s experiences of encounters with caregivers after the diagnosis of fetal anomaly at the routine second trimester ultrasound scan | Interviews | Ensuring safety |
| [101]\* | Laube | 1983 | USA | To describe the experiences with an alternative birth center | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [102]\* | Lavender | 2006 | England | To assess the effect of different action line positioning on birth outcomes | Randomized trial  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [103]\* | Law | 1999 | China | To compare the efficacy of midwife-managed care and obstetrician-managed care for women assessed to be at low risk in the initial intraparturn period | Prospective randomized controlled trial | Ensuring safety |
| [104]\* | Leddy | 2011 | USA | To summarize studies that encompasses depression, anxiety, and eating disorders | Document review  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [105]\* | Lennox | 1992 | Scotland | To study in-utero and neonatal transfers from the perspective of transferring hospitals  | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [106]\* | Lessaris | 2002 | USA | To determine whether perinatal referral patterns and clinical outcomes for very low birthweight infants changed in relation to changing Medicaid financial policies  | Retrospective cohort using case records | Aligning risk and resources |
| [107] | Lim | 2017 | England | To compare the care delivered in a joint cardiac obstetric service against recognized international standards  | Retrospective review of case records | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [108]\* | Lubchenco | 1989 | USA | To evaluate the effect of aggressive intrapartum and early neonatal resuscitation on perinatal mortality, neonatal morbidity, and long-term outcome | Retrospective cohort using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [109] | Lundeen | 2016  | USA | To describe the reasons for and outcomes of maternal transfers from private homes and freestanding birthing suites to a large academic hospital | Retrospective cohort using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [110] | Maassen | 2008 | Netherlands | To compare planned place of birth and incidence of operative delivery among women at low risk of complications at the time of onset of labor | Retrospective cohort study using a case database | Ensuring safety |
| [111] | MacVicar | 1993 | England | To compare the outcome of two methods of maternity care during the antenatal period and at delivery | Randomized controlled trial | Ensuring safety |
| [112]\* | Magann | 2012 | USA | To determine maternal fetal medicine referral trends in a Medicaidpopulation over time | Retrospective study using a database | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [113]\* | Mansbridge | 2014 | England | To describe the development, testing, evaluation and implementation of a nurse-to-nurse referral pathway between two trusts | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [114]\* | Marlow | 2014 | England | To evaluate the hypothesis that birth in, or transfer to, designated referral centers is accompanied by lower rates of mortality and morbidity among survivors | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [115]\* | Martijn | 2013 | Netherlands | To analyze the determinants of risk of critical incidents for women with a low risk profile at the start of pregnancy with a view on improving patient safety | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [116] | Matthey | 2016 | Scotland | To report the evaluation of the change in cut-off score in the Edinburgh Depression Scale clinical practice | Mixed methods using review of case records and interviews | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [117]\* | Mayer | 2018 | England | To describe the composition and processes of multidisciplinary care between maternity and cardiac services before, during and after pregnancy for women with cardiac disease, and explore clinicians’ (cardiologists, obstetricians, nurses, midwives) and women’s experiences of delivering/receiving care within these models | Mixed-methods comprising case-note audit, interviews and observations | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [118] | McCool | 2015 | USA | To evaluate claims brought against midwives, with the intent of developing strategies to decrease the incidence of litigation | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [119] | McIntyre | 2012 | Australia | To determine whether there is convincing evidence to support the safety of non-medically led models of primary maternity care | Literature review | Ensuring safety |
| [120]\* | McMurtrie | 2009 | Australia | To report the outcomes of a homebirth programme  | Prospective review of cases | Ensuring safety |
| [121] | Mengel | 1987 | USA | To determine whether family physicians are as competent in proving obstetric care as obstetricians | Literature review | Ensuring safety |
| [122] | Meuli | 1984 | USA | To describe process and success factors of implementation of regionalization | Retrospective review of case records | Aligning risk and resources |
| [123] | Mito | 2015 | Japan | To assess the present status of clinical care for postpartum patients with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy | Survey | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [124] | Monk | 2014 | Australia | To compare maternal and neonatal birth outcomes and morbidities associated with the intention to give birth in two freestanding midwifery units and two tertiary-level maternity units | Prospective cohort study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [125]\* | Montgomery-Andersen | 2010 | Greenland | To document how women because of at-risk pregnancies narratively constructed self-understanding and defined meaning during their period of separation from family and community; and how they dealt with the challenges they were presented with | Interviews | Ensuring safety |
| [126]\* | Morano | 2007 | Italy | To assess the experience a midwife-led birth center  | Prospective review of cases | Ensuring safety |
| [127] | Morley | 2018 | England | To explore the complexities of care provision for women with epilepsy and includes recommendations to optimize maternity health outcomes | Literature review  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [128]\* | Morriss | 2013 | USA | To estimate the contribution of insurance status to access to health care resources and to neonatal survival outcome | Retrospective study using a database | Aligning risk and resources |
| [129] | Morriss | 2018 | USA | To estimate the annual rate of inter-hospital transfers of pregnant and postpartum women and analyze associated patient and health system characteristics as measures of regionalized perinatal care performance | Retrospective study reviewing case records | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [130]\* | Nuovo | 1985 | USA | A risk-scoring system was evaluated to determine whether a request for obstetric or pediatric assistance could be predicted | Survey | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [131]\*  | Offerhaus | 2015a | Netherlands | To study whether an increase in intrapartum referrals in primary midwife-led care births in the Netherlands is accompanied by an increase in caesarean sections | Retrospective study using a database | Ensuring safety |
| [132]\*  | Offerhaus | 2015b | Netherlands | To explore the influence of risk perception, policy on routine labor management, and other midwife related factors on intrapartum referral decisions of midwives | Questionnaire | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [133]\*  | Offerhaus | 2015c | Netherlands | To describe the variation in intrapartum referral rates in midwifery practices in and to explore the association between the practice referral rate and a woman's chance of an instrumental birth | Retrospective study using a database | Ensuring safety |
| [134]\* | Papiernik | 1995 | France | To evaluate regionalized perinatal care programs in countries where they exist  | Literature review | Aligning risk and resources |
| [135] | Patterson | 2017 | New Zealand | To explore retrospectively the choice of birth place decisions and the labor and birth experiences of a sample of women resident in remotely zoned, rural areas  | Interviews | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [136]\* | Peddle | 1983 | Canada | Reviews the development of a regionalization programme and demonstrated by consumer utilization and perinatal mortality trends throughout the geographic area served | Retrospective cohort study using a database | Aligning risk and resources |
| [137]\* | Perdok | 2015 | Netherlands | To examine reasons for referral, management of labor, and maternal and neonatal outcomes among women who were referred during labor | Retrospective cohort study using a database | Ensuring safety |
| [138] | Perdok | 2016 | Netherlands | To gain insight into the level of consensus among maternity care professionals about facilitators and barriers related to integration of midwife-led and obstetrician-led care | Questionnaire  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [139] | Persson | 2004 | Greenland | To evaluate reform of health services | Retrospective study reviewing case records | Ensuring safety |
| [140] | Phillippi | 2019 | USA | To describe and disseminate the planning checklist to assist other health systems that provide team-based care with midwife and physician maternity care providers | Survey | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [141]  | Posthumus | 2016a | Netherlands | To explore the dynamics of obstetriccare utilization we investigated the joint association of hospital density and individual characteristics with prototype obstetric interventions | Retrospective cohort study using a database | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [142]  | Posthumus | 2016b | Netherlands | To investigate the associations between the use of a scorecard and risk factors and preterm birth, small for gestational age and a low Apgar score | Prospective cohort study using case records | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [143] | Prentice | 1989 | England | To audit the outcome of pregnancies booked for confinement in a general practitioner maternity unit in a district general hospital | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [144] | Quinn | 2014 | Australia | To better understand the local context and progress in delivering recommendations to improvematernity services for women in remote communities  | Questionnaire | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making  |
| [145] | Radomsky | 1995 | Canada | To review obstetric care provided by family physicians and to determine why they transfer patients to obstetricians | Retrospective review of case | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [146]\* | Ravelli | 2008 | Netherlands | To gain insight in recent perinatal mortality and their relation with important risk factors, risk groupsand risk selection among pregnant women | Retrospective cohort study using a database | Ensuring safety |
| [147]\* | Reddy | 2004 | England | To evaluate the safety of this birth setting for low-risk deliveries based on our hospital protocol | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [148] | Reilly | 2018 | Australia | To report the clinical features and outcomes of women referred to coordinated in-utero service with a primary diagnosis of pre-eclampsia, and subsequently transferred in-utero | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [149] | Reither | 2018 | USA | To investigate midwifery management of pregnant women with obesity | Survey | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [150]\* | Ressl | 2015 | Canada | To evaluate the effectiveness of the current detection process of breech | Retrospective review of case records and a prospective survey | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [151]\* | Reynolds | 1988 | England | To examine the effectiveness of antenatal risk prediction based on maternal characteristics | Retrospective cohort study using a database | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [152]\* | Richardson | 1984 | USA | To study decisions to refer obstetric patients | Survey | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [153]\* | Richardson | 1985 | USA | To describe issues in modern perinatal care in an effort to explore larger points concerning the efficiency and rationality of the way services are organized and rendered in today's evolving health care system | Literature review | Ensuring safety |
| [154]\* | Rijnders | 2008 | Netherlands | To investigate women’s views of their birth experience three years after the event | Questionnaire | Ensuring safety |
| [155]\* | Roberts | 2000 | Australia  | To quantify and describe antenatal transfers of rural women to perinatal centers, and among transferred women, to assess the use of selected evidence-based therapies and explore the potential predictors of preterm and imminent birth | Retrospective cohort study using a database | Aligning risk and resources |
| [156] | Rogers | 2010 | England | To determine outcomes for women booked at a stand-alone birth center | Prospective cohort study | Ensuring safety |
| [157] | Romijn | 2016 | Netherlands | To gain insight into similarities and differences between midwives and obstetricians in the assessment of a prolonged first stage of labor and the decision to refer a woman to a clinical setting | Survey  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [158]\*  | Rooks | 1989 | USA | To study the safety of birth centers | Survey | Ensuring safety |
| [159] | Rooks | 1992a | USA | To examine the effectiveness of the birth centers’ prenatal screening process and to predict the impact of considering certain categories of women ineligible for birth center care | Survey | Ensuring safety |
| [160] | Rooks | 1992b | USA | to determine whether it would be possible to reduce the incidence of serious complications in birth centers by referring all women with certain prenatal complications to other sources of intrapartum care | Survey | Ensuring safety |
| [161]\* | Rosenblatt | 1988 | USA | To evaluated the extent to which the regionalization of perinatal care has succeeded in concentrating high-risk pregnancies in technologically appropriate referral centers and in reducing differences in neonatal outcome among hospitals |  | Aligning risk and resources |
| [162]\* | Rowe | 2012 | England | To examine the proportion of women transferred from midwifery units, the reasons for transfer and the sociodemographic and clinical factors associated with transfer | Prospective cohort study  | Ensuring safety |
| [163] | Rowe | 2016 | England | To compare vaginal birth rates in women planning vaginal birth after caesarean at home versus in an obstetric unit and explore transfer rates in women planning home vaginal birth after caesarean | Prospective cohort study | Ensuring safety |
| [164] | Ryan | 1989 | England | To determine extent of maternal morbidity associated with in utero transfer | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [165] | Scherjon | 1986 | Netherlands and Denmark | To compare two types of obstetric organizations | Retrospective cohort study using two databases | Aligning risk and resources  |
| [166] | Scherman | 2008 | Australia | To describe a midwifery-led model of care in and the outcomes  | Prospective study  | Ensuring safety |
| [167] | Schmidt | 2002 | Norway | To report the short-term outcome for the mothers and newborns for all pregnancies accepted for birth at maternity homes | Prospective study | Ensuring safety |
| [168]\* | Schuit | 2015 | Netherlands | To identify risk indicators for referral during labor from community midwife to a gynecologist | Prospective cohort study using a database | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [169]\* | Schwartz | 2000 | USA | To assess use of high technology care among women with high-risk pregnancies | Survey  | Aligning risk and resources |
| [170] | Scupholme | 1986 | USA | To evaluate the relative safety of a birth center | Prospective matched paired study | Ensuring safety |
| [171] | Shaw | 2005 | UK (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales) | To document the problems that callers to a helpline report having when trying to arrange home births and to explore the strategies the call-taker uses in helping women to exercise their right to birth at home | Audio-recordings | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [172]\* | Shenai | 1991 | USA | To test the hypothesized that successful implementation of regionalized perinatal care results in early identification and antenatal referral of high-risk neonates, and also improved stabilization before and during transport of those transferred postnatally | Retrospective study | Aligning risk and resources |
| [173]\* | Sidhu | 1989 | Ireland | To compare the mortality in babiesrefused admission to a regional perinatal center with that in babies accepted for intensive care in the center | Retrospective study using case records | Aligning risk and resources  |
| [174]\* | Sloan | 2008 | Canada | To compare the characteristics of a consultation-liaison services with similar services in different parts of the world | Retrospective study of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [175]\* | Smit | 1997 | Netherlands | To compare referrals and reasons for referral during pregnancy and labor, mode of delivery and obstetric outcome of first births in women 35 years and older with women 20-30 years old | Explorative prospective cohort study | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [176]\* | Smit | 1998 | Netherlands | To compare referrals and reasons for referral during pregnancy and labor, mode of delivery and obstetric outcome of first births in women 35 years and older with women 20᎐30 years old | Prospective cohort study | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [177]\* | Smit | 2014 | Netherlands | To study the use of a pulse oximetry for midwives to assess neonatal condition after birth | Prospective observational study | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [178] | Snowden | 2016 | USA | To assess maternal outcomes and fetal and neonatal outcomes according to the planned place of delivery | Population based retrospective cohort study using a database | Ensuring safety |
| [179]\* | Stern | 1992 | Australia | To examine the outcomes of pregnancy and labor in a group of women who requested alternative birthing care and who were identified antenatally as being a ‘low-risk’ population | Retrospective study using case records | Ensuring safety |
| [180] | Stewart | 2017 | Australia | To present barriers to optimal in utero transfer of the high-risk fetus to a tertiary perinatal center and to discuss the principles to address these barriers | Literature review and authors’ experiences | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [181]\* | Stolp | 2015 | Netherlands | To evaluate the entire process of ambulance referral, from dispatcher call to hospital arrival | Prospective cohort study using case records and medical charts | Aligning risk and resources |
| [182] | Street | 1991 | England | To assess the effects of a revised obstetric booking policy whereby all low risk pregnant women received their antenatal care entirely in the community | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [183] | Strobino | 2003 | USA | To describe perinatal linkages among hospitals, changes in their numbers and their impact on relationships among high-risk providers in local communities | Interviews  | Aligning risk and resources |
| [184]\* | Styles | 2011 | Scotland | To examine whether midwives' decision making during the intrapartum period was affected by midwives' attitudes towards risk; specifically, whether those midwives scoring highly on risk propensity would delay referring/transferring a woman in labor, compared with those who have a lower propensity for risk | Vignettes and a questionnaire  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [185]\* | Sullivan | 1995 | USA | To describe models for collaborative care for home birth, outlines the process of developing a collaborative practice agreement and discusses specific factors to consider when forming a relationship | Literature review | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [186]\* | Suzuki | 2009 | Japan | To examined obstetric outcomes of women with “low-risk” pregnancies related to the referral from midwives to obstetricians a hospital | Retrospective cohort study using case record | Ensuring safety |
| [187]\* | Suzuki | 2014 | Japan | To perform trend analysis of primary midwife-led delivery care for ‘low risk’ pregnant women at our hospital | Retrospective cohort study using case record | Ensuring safety |
| [188] | Symon | 2010 | UK (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales) | To examine independent midwives’ management and decision making in instances of perinatal death that occurred at term | Mixed methods consisting of a retrospective cohort study using case record and interviews | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [189]\* | Tilyard | 1988 | New Zealand | To assess the influence of the number of deliveries performed by each general practitioner obstetrician and the distance from specialist care | Retrospective review of case records  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [190] | Tromp | 2009 | Netherlands | To study regional variation in perinatal mortality and to identify possible explanatory factors for the found differences | Retrospective cohort study using a database | Ensuring safety |
| [191]\* | Tucker | 2003 | Scotland  | To assess clinical appropriateness of model of care of small rural maternity units, including stand-alone midwife units | Retrospective review of case records | Aligning risk and resources |
| [192]\* | Tucker | 2010 | Scotland | To assess the diagnosis and management of mild non-proteinuric hypertension in pregnancy in rural general practices against guideline recommendations | Survey and interviews | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [193]\* | Van Alten | 1989 | Netherlands | To investigate the procedures used for selecting maternity care and their results, studied a group of pregnant women who booked at a practice of freestanding midwives | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [194] | Van der Kooy | 2016 | Netherlands | To address whether the introduction of a midwife-led birth center adjacent to the hospital combines the advantages of home and hospital deliveries, and whether the introduction of a midwife-led birth center leads to a different risk selection of women planning their delivery either at home, at the hospital or at the birth center | Retrospective review of case records | Aligning risk and resources  |
| [195]\* | Van Haaren | 2002 | Netherlands | To test the quality of obstetric care given by general practitioners | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [196] | Van Otterloo | 2018  | USA | To improve the understanding of standardized and integrated system of risk-appropriate care | Literature review | Aligning risk and resources |
| [197]\* | Van Stenus | 2017 | Netherlands | To explore questions around how clients experience transfers of care during pregnancy, childbirth, and the neonatal period, as well as how these experiences compare to the established quality of care aspects developed by the patient federation | Narratives | Ensuring safety |
| [198]\* | Van Stenus | 2018 | Netherlands | To study if client experiences with perinatal healthcare differ between low-risk and high- risk women | Questionnaire  | Ensuring safety |
| [199]\* | Van Wagner | 2012 | Canada | To improve understanding of maternity services in remote communities | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [200]\* | Vause | 2014 | USA | To give and overview of risk scoring systems and lesion-specific indicators to identify cardiac disease  | Literature review  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [201]\* | Vedam | 2007 | Canada | To provide a review of the aspects of intrapartum, postpartum, and neonatal midwifery management that can be provided similarly across birth sites, as well as those assessment, management, and therapeutic measures that need to be modified according to birth site | Literature review | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [202] | Viisainen | 1994 | Finland | To study whether hospitals of different levels are equally safe places to give birth in a regionalized system of care | Cross sectional survey | Ensuring safety |
| [203]\* | Vos | 2017 | Netherlands | To evaluate the implementation of a complex intervention in the antenatal healthcare field | Mixed methods consisting of observations and a survey  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [204]\* | Waldenström | 1997a | Sweden | To evaluate the effect of birth center care on women s health during pregnancy, birth, and 2 months postpartum by comparing the outcomes with those of women experiencing standard maternity care  | Mixed methods consisting of a randomized controlled trial, review of case records and a questionnaire  | Ensuring safety |
| [205] | Waldenström | 1997b | Sweden | To compare an in-hospital birth center with standard maternity care regarding medical interventions and maternal and infant outcome | Mixed methods consisting of a randomized controlled trial, review of case records and a questionnaire | Ensuring safety |
| [206]\* | Wallace | 1995 | Scotland | To assess the quality and quantity of midwife-doctor referrals in an intrapartum setting | Retrospective review of case records and prospective observations  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [207]\* | Wiegers | 1998 | Netherlands | To examine the differences between women choosing to give birth at home and those choosing a hospital birth to assess their experiences and the extent to which they were influenced by referral (and transfer) to specialist care | Questionnaire  | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |
| [208]\* | Woodcock | 1990 | Australia | To obtain accurate and complete data on homebirths to assist the formulation of appropriate homebirth policies | Retrospective review of case records | Ensuring safety |
| [209]\* | Woodhart  | 2018 | Australia | To explore the experiences of a small cohort of women during and following their transfer for higher level pregnancy and neonatal care | Interviews | Ensuring safety |
| [210]\* | Wright | 2013 | USA | To determine their knowledge, patterns of care and treatment preferences for women with placenta accreta | Cross-sectional survey | Detecting risk, assessing risk and decision-making |

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