



INSTITUTE OF
OBSTETRICIANS &
GYNAECOLOGISTS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



National
Women & Infants
Health Programme

National Clinical Practice Guideline Programme **Guideline Update**

Summer 2025



National Clinical Practice Guideline Programme

The National Clinical Guidelines are a programme of work agreed between the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) and the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (IOG) of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI). Professor Keelin O'Donoghue was appointed as NWIHP's Clinical Lead for Guideline Development (Maternity and Gynaecology) in 2021, joined by Ms Nicolai Murphy who was appointed as Programme Manager.

Within the Guideline Programme Team, Professor O'Donoghue is responsible for the review, update, and development and publication of National Clinical Guidelines in relation to Ireland's Maternity and Gynaecology services. A new guideline development process was established, including a multidisciplinary national Expert Advisory Group (EAG), who review and approve all Guidelines prior to publication, alongside other relevant stakeholders.

To date 20 Guidelines have been launched and a further 24 are underway

Documents related to this programme of work can be found at the links and QR codes below:

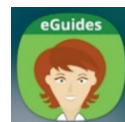
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/woman-infants/clinical-guidelines/>



<https://www.rcpi.ie/Faculties-Institutes/Institute-of-Obstetricians-and-Gynaecologists/National-Clinical-Guidelines-in-Obstetrics-and-Gynaecology>



The Guidelines can also be accessed on the MEG eGuides App; which can be downloaded on [Google Play](#), or [Apple App Store](#)

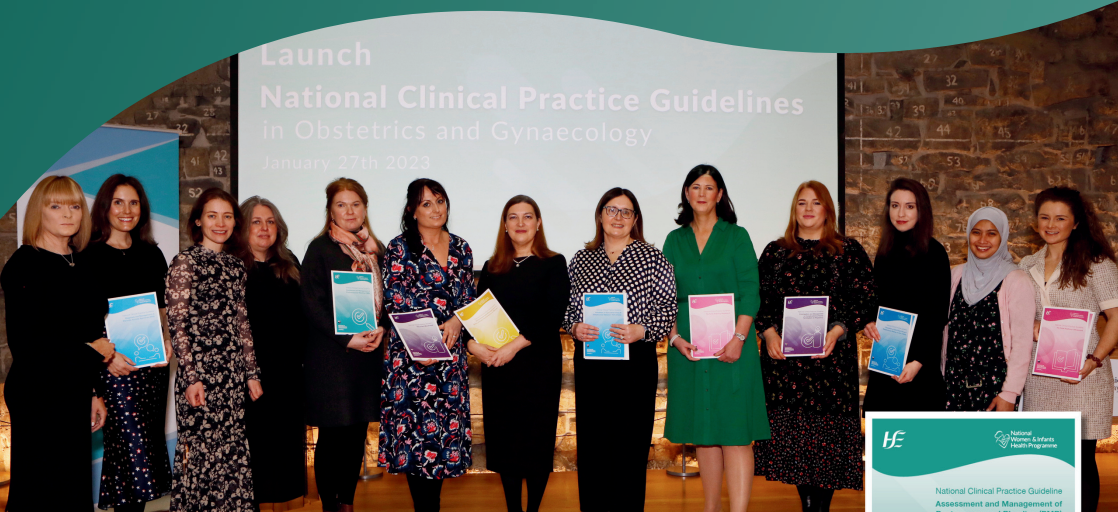


The Guidelines are also available on the Eolas Medical App, which can be downloaded on [Google Play](#), or [Apple App Store](#), or accessed via your browser at <https://app.eolasmedical.com/>



Progress To Date

Launch January 2023



Assessment and Management of Postmenopausal Bleeding

Duffy A, Ní Bhuinneain M, Burke N, Murphy C. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Assessment and Management of Postmenopausal Bleeding. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. December 2022

Diagnosis and Management of Placenta Accreta Spectrum

Bartels H.C, Walsh J.M, Ní Mhuirheartaigh R, Brophy D, Moriarty J, Geoghegan T, O'Leary M, Donnelly J. C, Colleran, G.C, Thompson, C, Cooney, N, Byrne, B, Downey, P, Greene, R, Higgins, S, Brennan, D.J. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Diagnosis and Management of Placenta Accreta Spectrum. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. December 2022

Assessment and Management of Stress Urinary Incontinence in Women

Craven S, Salameh F, O' Sullivan S. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Assessment and Management of Stress Urinary Incontinence in women. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. December 2022

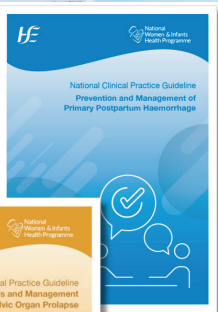
Diagnosis and Management of Mesh Complications

Carey M, O'Reilly B, O'Sullivan O. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Diagnosis and Management of Mesh complications. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. December 2022



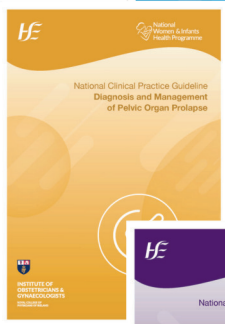
Progress To Date

Launch January 2023



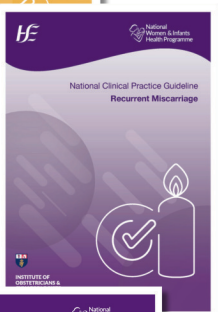
Prevention and Management of Primary Postpartum Haemorrhage

Byrne B, Spring A, Barrett N, Power J, McKernan J, Brophy, D, Houston C, Faryal R, McMahon E, Manning C, Murphy P, Ni Ainle F. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Prevention and Management of Primary Postpartum Haemorrhage. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, December 2022



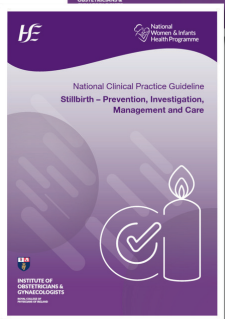
Diagnosis and Management of Pelvic Organ Prolapse

O'Leary B, Agnew G, Keane D. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Diagnosis and Management of Pelvic Organ Prolapse. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. December 2022



Recurrent Miscarriage

Linehan L, Hennessy M, Khalid A, Whelan J, O'Donoghue K. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Recurrent Miscarriage. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. January 2023



Investigation and Management of Complications of Early Termination of Pregnancy

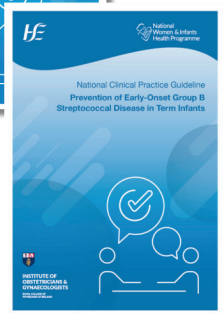
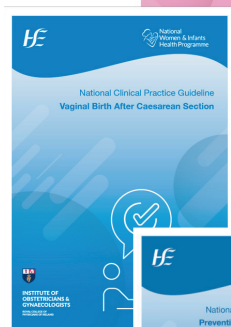
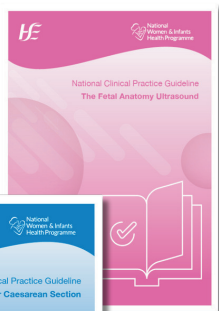
Boyd S, Feeney S, Harte K, Hayes S, McCarthy C, Hayes-Ryan D. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Investigation and Management of Complications of Early Termination of Pregnancy. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. December 2022

Stillbirth: Prevention, Investigation, Management and Care

McDonnell A, Butler M, White J, Escañuela Sánchez T, Cullen S, Cotter R, Murphy M, O'Donoghue K. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Stillbirth: Prevention, Investigation, Management and Care. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. January 2023

Progress To Date

Launch January 2023



The Fetal Anatomy Ultrasound

Fleming A, Corbett G, McParland P. National Clinical Practice Guideline: The fetal anatomy ultrasound. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. January 2023

Vaginal Birth After Caesarean Section

Ryan G, Duggan J, Finnegan C, Morrison JJ. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Vaginal Birth After Caesarean Section. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. January 2023

Prevention of Early Onset Group B Streptococcal Disease in Term Infants

Dakin A, Loughlin L, Ferguson W, Babu S, Power L, Dempsey G, Meehan M, Knowles S, Drew R, Eogan M. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Prevention of Early Onset Group B Streptococcal Disease in Term Infants. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. January 2023

Progress To Date

Launch October 2023



Fertility-Investigation and Management in Secondary Care

Schäler L, O'Leary D, Barry M, Crosby DA. *National Clinical Practice Guideline: Fertility-Investigation and Management in Secondary Care*. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. October 2023

Induction of labour

Mitchell J.M, Nolan C, El Shaikh M, Cullinane, S, Borlase D. *National Clinical Practice Guideline: Induction of Labour*. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. October 2023

Management of rheumatic diseases in the preconception, antenatal and postnatal periods

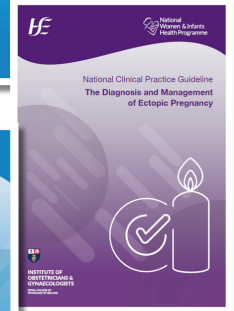
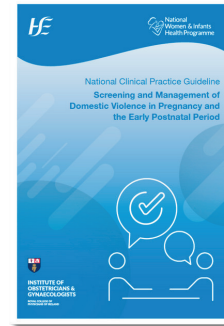
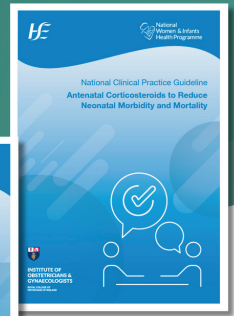
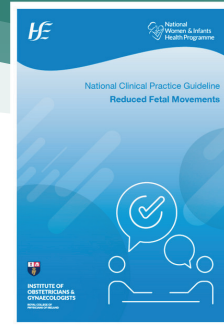
Gorman A, Moore L, O'Brien C, Soldati B, Veale DJ, McAuliffe FM. *Management of rheumatic diseases in the preconception, antenatal and postnatal periods*. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. October 2023

Varicella in pregnancy

Drew RJ, Barry R, Houlihan E, Cahill Ú, Farhan M, Gavin P, Geisler M, Knowles S, Lynch J, Lynch M, Ryan G. *National Clinical Practice Guideline: Varicella in pregnancy*. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. October 2023



Progress To Date Launch May 2024



Antenatal corticosteroids to reduce neonatal morbidity and mortality

Murphy S, Murphy E, Dineen A, Ryan J, Dempsey E, O'Donoghue K. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Antenatal corticosteroids to reduce neonatal morbidity and mortality. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. May 2024

Reduced fetal movements

Kalisse T, Farrell AM, Verling AM, Rutherford E, Ravinder M, Khalid A, O'Donoghue K. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Reduced Fetal Movements. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. May 2024

The diagnosis and management of ectopic pregnancy

Fee N, Begley B, McArdle A, Milne S, Freyne A, Armstrong F. National Clinical Practice Guideline: The Diagnosis and Management of Ectopic Pregnancy. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. May 2024

Screening and management of domestic violence in pregnancy and the early postnatal period

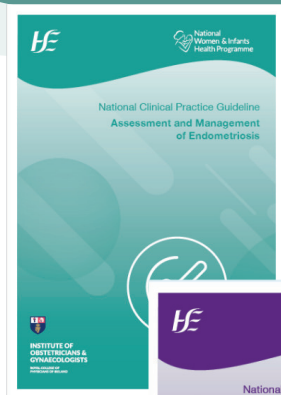
Webster J, Lawlor S, Kavanagh D, Breen A, Sheil O, McCarthy AM, O'Brien Green S, Kirby F, Leahy M. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Management of Domestic Violence and Abuse in Pregnancy. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. May 2024

Progress To Date

Launch June 2025

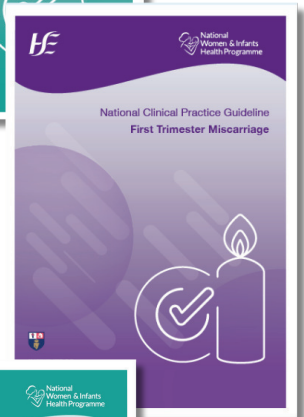
Assessment and Management of Endometriosis

DeMaio, A, McTiernan, A, Durand O' Connor A, Reidy F, O' Neill, A. *National Clinical Practice Guideline: Assessment and Management of Endometriosis. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. 2025*



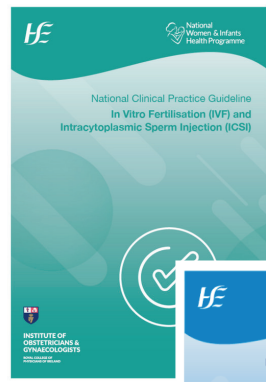
First Trimester Miscarriage

Crowley, C. Dooley, L. Spillane, N. Manning, L. McCarthy, C. Hayes-Ryan, D. and O'Donoghue, K. *National Clinical Practice Guideline: First Trimester Miscarriage. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. 2025*



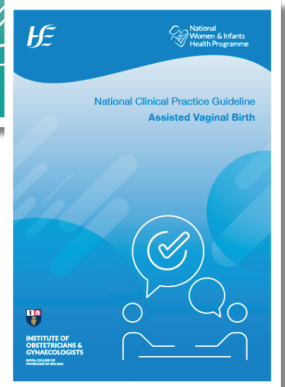
In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)

Petch S, O'Byrne L, Hartigan L, Muresan B, Keneally J, Murphy C, McMenamin M. *National Clinical Practice Guideline: In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. 2025*



Assisted Vaginal Birth

Murphy DJ, Yambasu S, Shahabuddin Y, Dunney C, Ramphul M. *National Clinical Practice Guideline: Assisted Vaginal Birth. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. June 2025*



Progress To Date

Launch June 2025

Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring

Rowland M, Taylor J, McNamara K, Cronin M, Kinsella I, Murphy H, Carroll L, Murphy D, Purcell E, Murphy C. *National Clinical Practice Guideline: Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. June 2025*

Intrapartum Care for Women on the Supported Care Pathway

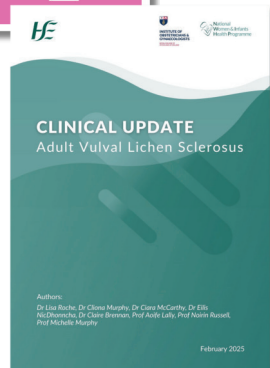
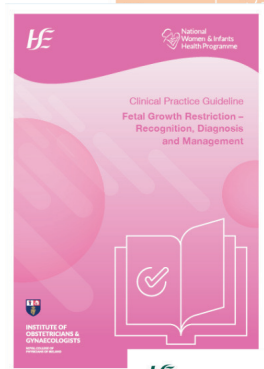
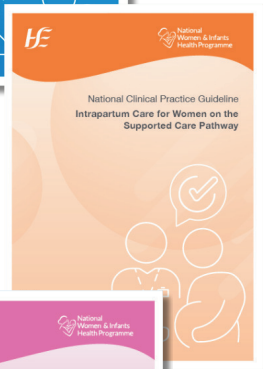
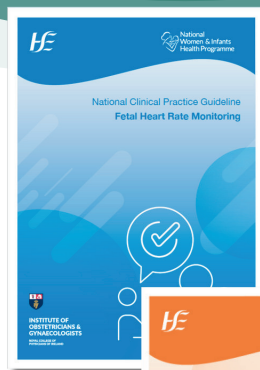
Vallejo, N., Mc Cormack, E., Rowland, M., Dado, M.P., Healy, M., Brosnan, M., Imcha, M., Plans, C., *National Clinical Practice Guideline: Intrapartum Care of Women on the Supported Care Pathway. National Women and Infants Health Programme, June 2025*

Fetal Growth Restriction – Recognition, Diagnosis and Management

McMahon, G., McDonnell, B., Mackin, D., Kent, E., Geary, M. *National Clinical Practice Guideline: Fetal Growth Restriction – Recognition, Diagnosis and Management. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. June 2025.*

Clinical Update: Adult Vulval Lichen Sclerosus

Roche, L., Murphy, C., McCarthy, C., NicDonnacha, Eilis, Brennan, C., Lally, A., Russell, N., Murphy, M. *Clinical Update: Adult Vulval Lichen Sclerosus. National Women and Infants Health Programme. February 2025.*



New Guidelines Coming Soon!

Prevention and Management of Venous Thromboembolism in Pregnancy

Lutfi A, Meyer N, O'Shaughnessy F, Gaffney G, MacMahon P, Rebecca Cole, Spring A, Higgins JR, Ní Áinle F, Crowley M. National Women and Infants Health Programme, National Venous Thromboembolism Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Hypertensive disease in pregnancy

O'Byrne L, Baskaran R, Sherwood S, McCarthy F. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Prenatal Diagnosis: Amniocentesis and Chorionic Villous Sampling

Redmond A.E, Doyle S, Ryan G, Rigney T, Hughes H, Cathcart B, Walsh J M. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Diagnosis and Management of Unstable Lie

Gyawali I, Rogers A, Ismail KI. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Assessment and Management of Unstable Lie. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. 2025

Umbilical Cord Prolapse - Prevention, Recognition and Management

White M, McInerney V, Neary A, Ismail KI. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Umbilical Cord Prolapse: Prevention, Recognition and Management. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. 2025

National Clinical Practice Guideline: Antenatal Care for Women on the Supported Care Pathway

Malik J, O'Connor S., Campbell A., Malone D., Thompson S., Byrne V., Murphy J., O'Connell R., P Barry., & C Kennedy. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Antenatal Care for Women on the Supported Care Pathway. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. 2025

National Clinical Practice Guideline: Postnatal Midwifery Care for Mother and Infant

Duggan J, Helen H, Dixon A, Cronolly C, Stanciu C, Murphy H, Gilligan E, Joyce L, Sarma S, Keegan C & Rowland M. National Clinical Practice Guideline on Postnatal Midwifery Care for the Mother and Infant. National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. 2025

National Clinical Practice Guideline: Care of Women Choosing to use a Birthing Pool for Labour and/or Birth

Barry P., Higgins J., Keegan C., Cronolly C., Hamill A. National Clinical Practice Guideline: Care of Women Using a Birthing Pool for Labour and/or Birth. National Women and Infants Health Programme and the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. 2025.

Guidelines Underway

Monochorionic Multiple
Pregnancy Management

Management of Suspected Preterm
Labour

Diagnosis and Management of Menopause in
Secondary Care and Menopause Speciality
Services

Abnormal Uterine Bleeding

Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injury

Hyperemesis and nausea/vomiting in
pregnancy

Diabetes in pregnancy

Postnatal contraception

Termination of Pregnancy for Fetal
Anomaly

Early Termination of Pregnancy

Pre-viable PPROM

Prevention of Preterm Birth

Midwifery Guideline Programme

A key recommendation set out in the National Maternity Strategy was that Clinical leadership, support and resources are provided for the development and implementation of National Clinical Guidelines and National Clinical Audit.

Following on from the establishment of the Maternity and Gynaecology Guideline Development Programme, NWIHP established the National Midwifery Guideline Development Programme 2022 led out by Angela Dunne, National Lead Midwife, National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWHIP) and Clare Kennedy, Assistant Director of Midwifery, National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWHIP).

Four midwifery guidelines were commenced under this programme relating to Midwifery care in the antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal period, as well as waterbirth. These guidelines will be submitted for review prior to publication to the EAG established by the Maternity and Gynaecology Guideline Development Programme.

The four Guidelines and their titles:

- **National Clinical Practice Guideline: Antenatal Care for Women on the Supported Care Pathway**
- **National Clinical Practice Guideline: Intrapartum Care for Women on the Supported Care Pathway**
- **National Clinical Practice Guideline: Postnatal Midwifery Care for Mother and Infant**
- **National Clinical Practice Guideline: Care of Women Choosing to use a Birthing Pool for Labour and/or Birth**

National Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for the Guideline Programme

The EAG is made up of a wide group of professionals and has public representation. Its purpose is to oversee the development and update of the National Clinical Guidelines for the Maternity and Gynaecology Services in Ireland. The group is Chaired by Prof O'Donoghue and co-chaired by Ms Murphy of the Guideline Programme Team.

The EAG reports to the programme team who in turn reports to the Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) for NWIHP in conjunction with the IOG.

The EAG meet 4-6 times annually to review clinical guidelines which are under development or being updated by a Guideline Developer Group (GDG) and, later, they assist with the communication and dissemination of the approved Guideline within their own relevant workplace structures.

The Programme team acknowledge the commitment of the EAG to the work of the Guideline programme and their professionalism in carrying out this time-consuming role. Their involvement in the process is very much appreciated.

Thanks to:

Dr Mairead Butler, Dr Nicholas Barrett, Dr Venita Broderick, Ms Siobhan Canny, Ms Triona Cowman, Ms Marie Culliton Ms Niamh Connolly-Coyne, Ms Mandy Daly, Ms Sinéad Curran, Dr Niamh Conlon, Ms Georgina Cruise, Dr Orla Donohoe, Ms Alana Dineen, Prof Maeve Eogan, Dr Brendan Fitzgerald, Dr Daniel Galvin, Ms Stacey Grealis, Ms Fiona Hanrahan, Ms Laura Harrington, Ms Marita Hennessy, Ms Caroline Joyce, Dr Chaitra Jairaj, Dr Cathy Monteith, Prof John Murphy, Ms Janet Murphy, Dr Jill Mitchell, Dr Aisling McDonnell, Dr Ciara McCarthy, Ms Orla McCarthy, Dr Donough J. O'Donovan, Mr Fergal O' Shaughnessy, Dr Brian Cleary, Dr Gillian Ryan, Prof Valerie Smith, Ms Nora Vallejo.

Also thank you to former members from 2021-2023,

Dr Katherine Astbury, Dr Richard Duffy, Ms Clare Farrell, Ms Marie Finn, Prof Declan Keane, Ms Áine Kelly, Dr Fergus McCarthy, Dr Sarah Petch, Ms Margaret Quigley.

How to Get Involved

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