MNSI
Maternity & Newborn Safety Investigations

# Subject Matter Advisor (SMA) information pack

Last updated: October 2026

# **Thank you** for your interest in becoming an SMA

The Maternity and Newborn Safety Investigations (MNSI) programme is the leading programme for maternity and newborn safety investigations in England. We are an independent programme funded by the Department of Health and Social Care. We investigate babies who die or experience a severe brain injury around the time of labour and birth. We also investigate direct and indirect maternal deaths during pregnancy and up to six weeks after the end of a pregnancy, excluding death by suicide.

Our purpose is to provide women and their families with the answers they urgently seek following these events. MNSI's investigations provide learning for the trust(s) concerned, and feed into thematic learning across England.

Your contribution to the programme will provide families and trusts with the specialist opinion necessary to ensure investigations are concluded and maternity and neonatal services are safer in the future.

This onboarding pack will provide you with an overview of your responsibilities, benefits to joining and FAQs.



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# Benefits and responsibilities

# Benefits of becoming an SMA

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- Continuing professional development (Please refer to your affiliated college as per your CPD points)
- Paid at a daily rate
- No legal liability or prosecution
- Flexible hours and approach
- Remote work for you to do at your convenience
- Contributing to making maternity and neonatal services safer and addressing health inequalities

**Our investigations are purely focused on learning to improve safe working practices across maternity and neonatal services.**

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# Contact and onboarding

# Initial contact process

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**SMAs contact MNSI directly:**

1. Initial notice of interest is shown from SMA either through direct contact with member of staff or through an email sent to enquiries@mnsi.org.uk
2. MNSI admin arrange a call between clinical advisor or deputy/clinical director and SMA to discuss finer details of the role, pay and to request a CV and cover letter be provided
3. SMA agrees that they want to be part of the team

# Onboarding process

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1. SMA to complete onboarding paperwork:
   - Personal information form
   - Confidentiality agreement
   - Conflict of interest form
   - Confirmation of their information governance compliance in mandatory training at their trust

2. SMA to provide ID as either:
   - Two forms of photographic personal identification and one document confirming your address
   - **Or**
   - One form of photographic personal identification and two documents confirming your address

3. MNSI clinical director to review and confirm ID

4. MNSI admin set up in HIMS (internal investigation platform)

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# FAQs

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- Do I still have to be in clinical practice to provide SMA input
  - Yes, or within 2 years of having been in that speciality.
- Conflicts of interest - what is the main concern?
  - The primary conflict of interest you will face is your place of work. You cannot investigate any safety event that has taken place within your trust or local area.
- Will my report be anonymised
  - Yes. Your name will not be featured in the report nor during coroner's proceedings.
- Do I need medico-legal cover to write the report
  - No.



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# Next steps

For any questions or for further information, please email enquiries@mnsi.org.uk