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Special delivery for maternity department

Maternity staff and patients at South Tyneside District Hospital have been given extra equipment to say thank you for taking part in important research.

Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist Mr Umo Esen and clinical research midwife Judith Ormonde, who make up the reproductive health research team, have supplied the department with an electronic blood pressure machine and four portable baby heart monitors, as well as three small fridges on the maternity ward for patient use.

The items, costing about £3,500, were bought with money from taking part in National Institute for Health Research studies. Recent trials have included looking at the use of folic acid to try to prevent pre-eclampsia, a condition in pregnancy which can be dangerous for mother and baby, and also looking at how pre-eclampsia can be diagnosed from the protein in urine samples. Current trials include: the use of antibiotics to possibly aid wound healing after a baby has been delivered by forceps or ventouse (vacuum-assisted), and the use of an analyser to measure fetal fibronectin (the special protein that holds the baby in place in the womb) in women with symptoms of pre-term labour to determine the likelihood of them delivering their baby prematurely.

Mrs Ormonde said: "We wanted to do something to thank all the midwives and doctors who have helped us to recruit to trials and who continue to do so, and also the patients who take part. Research is a great way to improve patient care but we can't do it without our patients' involvement and we are very fortunate that so many of our maternity patients are willing to get involved."

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Pictured above: South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's reproductive health research team, clinical research midwife Judith Ormonde and consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist Mr Umo Esen

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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