



When You Know: Childbirth in the asylum system

Reflective template for GPs

The film explores themes of displacement, isolation, fear, health inequities and inequalities, intersectionality and the maternal health consequences of common structural barriers encountered by people giving birth in the asylum system.

Asylum Support

People claiming asylum in the UK are not usually entitled to work while their claim is being considered. Those who have been waiting 12 months or more for a decision may apply for a limited range of jobs on the Shortage Occupation List. Everyone else will receive one of two types of support:

- Section 98 (Temporary support)- this is for those who are destitute and have applied for Section 95 support. Housing with full board is provided, usually in a Home Office run hostel or hotel accommodation. An additional £8.86 a week is provided for toiletries and other basics.
- Section 95 support- Self-catered accommodation provided on a no choice basis along with subsistence of £49.18 a week (about 50% of mainstream benefits). A system of mandatory dispersal means people can be moved with a few hours' notice to other areas of the country if cheaper or alternative housing becomes available. Those living with friends or family can apply for subsistence-only support.

Asylum seekers are entitled to maternity care without charge (confirmed by HC2 certificate, BAIL 201 letter or ARC card). In addition to asylum support, pregnant asylum seekers are provided an extra £5.25 per week and may apply for a £300 Home Office grant for baby equipment (29/40 onwards or within 6 months following birth). An additional £9.50 per week is provided for the first year of the baby's life.

Questions

What did you learn about the asylum system that you didn't know before?

Was there anything in the film that surprised or shocked you?

What are the main challenges to maternity care faced by people in the asylum system? How are GPs affected by this?

Could the prescribing issue within Samaa's story occur in your surgery, and how could you prevent it?

Do you know your local support pathways and organisations?

How will you change your practice as a result of watching this film?

Resources for further learning

[NHS England » Guidance to support HC2 application for asylum seekers](#)

[Pregnancy Care Transfer Card - Welcome](#)

[nice.org.uk/guidance/cg110/chapter/Recommendations#pregnant-women-who-are-recent-migrants-asylum-seekers-or-refugees-or-who-have-difficulty-reading-2](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg110/chapter/Recommendations#pregnant-women-who-are-recent-migrants-asylum-seekers-or-refugees-or-who-have-difficulty-reading-2)