This guideline has been prepared with reference to the following:


Is outpatient care an acceptable alternative for women with major placenta praevia who have refused hospital admission?
A Cochrane systematic review of 3 trials in a total of 114 women (Neilson, 2003) found little evidence of advantages or disadvantages to hospitalisation. Initial outpatient care was
associated with reduced hospital length of stay antenatally: Weighted Mean Difference (WMD) -18.50 days (95% CI -26.83 to -10.17). More research was called for. Two of the three trials in this review looked specifically at the role of cervical cerclage. The third, a randomised controlled trial in 53 women (Wing, 1996) found only insignificant differences between those randomised to bed rest in hospital (n=27) and those discharged home after >/= 72 hours in hospital (n=26). The authors concluded that outpatient management of selected patients with placenta praevia was an acceptable alternative to hospitalisation.


Evidence Level: I

Last amended March 2013