Emma Rajakrishnen RM, MSc

Registered midwife since 2008. Maternity quality, safety and governance.

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Profile

Registered midwife and maternity quality and safety lead, with clinical, quality and governance experience across the UK, Italy and the United Arab Emirates. My background runs from frontline midwifery to hospital quality and international accreditation, then NHS commissioning at integrated care board level: patient safety, incident review, quality improvement and the assurance of provider services. I led the development of the quality and safety measures for termination of pregnancy services that NHS England published as a national case study in its 2024 guidance, and I was part of the review team for the independent review of maternity services at Nottingham University Hospitals. I founded Elythia and Elythia Equity CIC, and I advise Strasys on maternity.

Areas of expertise

- Maternity clinical safety, governance and quality assurance
- Serious and independent incident review
- Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF)
- Clinical risk, risk registers and escalation pathways
- Quality improvement methods and service redesign
- Maternity equity and continuity of carer models
- International accreditation, audit and patient tracers
- Commissioning and quality assurance of clinical and digital services

Recognition and speaking

- Judge, Nursing Times Awards 2026
- Elythia Limited, 5th in the UK for Best Social Impact, UK Small Business Awards 2025
- Speaker and co-author at maternity and healthcare conferences in the UK and abroad
- Host of the podcast Your Birth, Decoded

Experience

Founder and Chief Executive

Apr 2026 to present

Elythia (Elythia Limited and Elythia Equity CIC), United Kingdom

- Founded and lead Elythia Maternity, one-to-one support for pregnant women in the UK alongside their NHS care, and Elythia Equity CIC, maternity and perinatal mental health support starting with Romanian-speaking families.
- Responsible for strategy, governance, clinical content assurance and partnerships across both. Build and use AI tools for maternity quality, assurance and reporting.
- Maternity advisor to Strasys, and a member of the Birthrate Plus advisory group.

Head of Quality

Sept 2024 to Apr 2026

Leeds Health and Care Partnership, NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

- Senior clinical and quality leadership across all population boards, with a focus on maternity.
- Contributed to the design and implementation of PSIRF at place level, moving from legacy incident management to a proportionate, learning-focused approach.
- Senior reviewer for serious incident investigations and complaints, giving evidence-based assurance to population boards.
- Led quality assurance visits to providers and gave the quality and safety view in tendering and commissioning. Line managed staff in the quality and safety team and represented the ICB at national forums.

Review team member, Independent Review of Maternity Services

2024 to 2026

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, chaired by Donna Ockenden

- Case-level review and analysis of maternity care for one of the largest independent maternity reviews in the NHS, using recognised grading-of-care methods to identify learning and inform recommendations.

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Manager

May 2022 to Sept 2024

NHS Integrated Care Board, Leeds

- Quality improvement leadership across the maternity, children's, healthy adults and cancer populations.
- Led the development of the quality and safety measures and dashboard for termination of pregnancy services, used to spot concerns across several providers. NHS England published the work as a national case study in its 2024 guidance on improving abortion care.
- Managed the system response to a serious quality and safety concern in a neighbouring ICB, leading a new scoring system and escalation pathway for women needing transfer during acute service disruption.
- Ran risk registers across several population boards, reviewed incident investigations and complaints, and led quality assurance visits.

Registered Midwife

Nov 2020 to May 2022

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

- Antenatal clinic and day unit, including high-risk pregnancies. Practice assessor and supervisor for midwifery and nursing students.

Continuity of Carer Project Lead and Maternity Manager

Nov 2019 to Nov 2020

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

- Chaired the continuity of carer task and finish group and led the workstream within the Maternity Transformation Programme.
- Led the move to a continuity of carer model alongside operational management, with the project plan, risk log and reporting against national and local trajectories.

Nursing Quality Manager

Sept 2017 to Jul 2019

Kanad Hospital, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

- Set up the Perinatal Safety Committee and led investigation and trend analysis of women's health and NICU incidents.
- Led two Joint Commission International Clinical Care Program Certifications to completion, including vaginal birth after caesarean.
- Audits and patient tracers for local and international regulators.

Senior Midwife and Clinical Educator

Jan 2015 to Aug 2017

Kanad Hospital, United Arab Emirates

- Labour ward coordinator and senior midwife. Designed and delivered clinical training (PROMPT, CTG, BFHI).

Registered and Community Midwife

Nov 2009 to Jul 2014

Whipps Cross University Hospital and Northampton General Hospital NHS Trusts

- Antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care in hospital and community, including a community caseload of up to 300 women a year. Shift coordinator and student mentor.

Education

MSc Midwifery
University of Dundee, 2020

BSc (Hons) Midwifery, First Class Honours cum laude
La Sapienza University of Rome, 2008

PgCert Healthcare Leadership (Mary Seacole Programme)
NHS Leadership Academy, 2023

Registered Midwife
Nursing and Midwifery Council, since 2009

Training

- Patient Safety Training, levels 1 and 2, e-Learning for Healthcare (2022)
- Certified Professional in Patient Safety, Al Moshtarakah International for Health Care Quality, Dubai (2017)
- PROMPT trainer training, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (2015)
- Sign-off mentor, London South Bank University (2011)

Languages: English, Romanian and Italian. References available on request.

emmarajakrishnen.com