Joint statement from
the British Medical Association,
the British Association of Perinatal Medicine,
the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare,
the Royal College of Nursing and
the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Survival of extremely preterm infants

The British Medical Association (BMA), the British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM), the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH), the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) believe it is important that evidence-based factual information informs parliamentary debate.

In light of Parliamentary debate on the survival of extremely preterm infants, specifically below 24 weeks’ gestation, the BMA, BAPM, FSRH, RCN and RCOG believe that it would be helpful to outline their shared view that:

**there is no evidence of a significant improvement in the survival of preterm infants below 24 weeks’ gestation, in the UK, in the last 18 years.**

The major development since 1990 has been an improvement in the survival of babies born at 24 weeks and over, but not below this gestation.

The view that survival rates below 24 weeks’ gestation have not significantly improved is shared with the House of Commons former Science and Technology Committee.

For further information, please contact Sue Marks at:
British Medical Association, BMA House Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JP.
Tel: 020 7383 6223; Email: smarks@bma.org.uk

May 2008