Continuing drop in stillbirths in England

Latest data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) shows that the stillbirth rate in England has continued to fall in 2013, to the lowest ever level.

This continues the downward trend since 2011 that became apparent due to falls in each of the three NHS regions which had high uptake of GROW training & accreditation.

National roll-out of the Growth Assessment Protocol (GAP), increased clinical awareness, and last year’s publication of the RCOG Green Top SGA guidelines are being credited for this continued improvement.

The reduction from the previous 10 year average stillbirth rate in England of 5.35/1000 to 4.65/1000 in 2013 equates to 500 fewer stillbirths per year.

This achievement is thanks to many clinicians’ efforts to improve the safety of their service by focussing on antenatal detection and management of babies at-risk. However more needs to be done - we estimate that up to 1000 stillbirths are preventable each year.

The Perinatal Institute is assisting NHS England with the integration of comprehensive fetal growth assessment as a key element of a stillbirth prevention ‘care bundle’ for commissioning.

National uptake of the Growth Assessment Protocol (GAP)

| Trusts & Health Boards in England, Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland (n=168) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| GAP Implemented                 | 90              |                |                |                |                |
| Intention Confirmed             | 26              |                |                |                |                |
| Interest Expressed              | 25              |                |                |                |                |
| Total                           | 141             | 84%            |                |                |                |

Latest progress:
- 54% of UK Trusts and Health Boards have already implemented
- A further 30% are intending to implement, or have expressed interest
- Over 200,000 customised charts have been produced so far this year
- 6000+ clinicians have signed up for e-learning

Work is also proceeding to integrate GROW with the main MIS providers. Currently, we are preparing reports to Trusts on their own baseline rates of fetal growth restriction, antenatal referral and detection rates.

In response to many parental requests, we have started listing all GAP enrolled Trusts on [www.perinatal.org.uk/gap-uptake.aspx](http://www.perinatal.org.uk/gap-uptake.aspx)
Perinatal Institute wins 2014 national Patient Safety Award for stillbirth prevention

For the second year running, the Perinatal Institute picked up the prestigious 2014 national Patient Safety & Care Award. The prize was awarded for the Institute’s ground breaking initiative in education and training which has led to the recent reduction in stillbirth rates in England to their lowest ever level. http://www.perinatal.org.uk/News/PatientSafetyAwards2014.aspx

National maternity notes www.preg.info

The hand held maternity notes continue to be used in 60% of all pregnancies cared for in England. They put expectant mothers in control of their own records, and provide the information which allows them to engage and make informed choices. 2014 has been a busy year for the Notes Team at the PI:

The Pregnancy Notes for antenatal care have been revised to reflect latest national guidelines and the maternity payment pathway.

The new Perinatal Notes are being implemented in maternity units which have expressed a preference for combined notes.

Diabetes - ‘Planning a Family’ Notes provide information for women regarding the importance of pre-conception care and good diabetes control prior to getting pregnant.

Postnatal Bereavement Notes promote sensitive, individualised care for bereaved parents following a tragic loss, and prompt open and honest explanation of events.

The next round of training workshops and consultations for the yearly Notes-updates are planned for early 2015.

Mi-App Standardised e-notes for mothers and their care providers www.perinatal.org.uk/MiApp/about.aspx

The Perinatal Institute, in collaboration with Patients Know Best, is starting field trials of electronic maternity notes. This will make the content of the national, paper based record available for mothers on mobile phones, tablets and home computers, and for all primary and secondary care providers - directly and integrated with their information system.

Mi-App puts the mother in control of her record

Benefits

➢ Information can be shared instantly with all care providers on tablets as well as hospital based information systems.
➢ Will allow access to a wealth of information for parents, including videos and translations into other languages.
➢ System continually updated with latest guidelines, national perinatal datasets and maternity payment pathway.

MiApp will result in substantial savings in cost and effort, due to reduced clinical time needed for record keeping and double entry of data. Ready availability of information will substantially improve quality & safety in maternity care, and reduce litigation.

Customised growth charts are going international!

➢ Individual centile calculators now on-line for first 12 countries
➢ Bulk centile calculators in use by >250 research groups worldwide
➢ GROW charts licensed nationally by Dutch Royal College of Midwives
➢ Implementation also underway in units in Australia and New Zealand

GROW centile calculators www.gestation.net/cc/about.htm

For further information, please contact:
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