



Victorian Perinatal News Bulletin

No. 5 September 2008

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Victorian Perinatal News Bulletin. This quarterly bulletin has been designed to keep you up to date with information from the Victorian Perinatal Data Collection Unit (VPDCU).

Electronic copies of our bulletins can also be found on our website:

www.health.vic.gov.au/perinata1

Also visit our website for more information about the unit, for copies of the Notifiers guide and to access publications.

Diana Stubbs
Research and Liaison midwife
VPDCU

Staff News

The Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity (CCOPMM), VPDCU and the Victorian Birth Defects Register are now under the auspices of the Statewide Quality Branch of the Department of Human Services and form part of the Clinical Councils Unit. Our contact details remain the same.

Anne-Maree Szauer is the acting manager of the Clinical Councils Unit.

Linda Campbell has been appointed to cover Gemma Wills Maternity Leave. Unfortunately Linda is on sick leave and Diana Stubbs is replacing her until she returns.

Trudi Simpson has been appointed as a new Health Information Manager. She replaces Odette Taylor who has moved on to other employment and we thank her for valuable input and wish her well in the future.

Redevelopment of the User Guide.

Due to the redevelopment and updating of the Perinatal form the User Guide has also been revised. The new version will include descriptions and examples of the new data collection items.

The guide will also provide clear definitions for commonly used terms especially those that often cause confusion. There will also be more examples provided to make things crystal clear.

The guide will be available in two separate versions; electronic and manual. We have decided to provide two separate guides as the current guide is not user friendly when using the electronic form.

If you have any suggestions for the guide to make it more user-friendly please contact the Research and Liaison Midwife.

State-wide Communication Strategy

We have developed a state-wide communication strategy, to inform midwives and stakeholders about the changes involving the electronic transfer of data (ETOD) and the revised and updated Perinatal form. The first of these information sessions for users and managers of the electronic forms is on September 24. Other sessions are organised for October 22 and November 19. Invitations are being sent out and if you are not able to attend the initial session please try to attend one of the other dates

This will allow users to have a clearer understanding of the rationale behind the new data items that are being collected. It will also assist in becoming familiar with the processes involved in uploading the forms prior to the implementation date of 1 January, 2009.

It is anticipated that six hospitals will be involved in the pilot period from Jan to mid 2009.

This will be followed by the introduction of the Electronic Transfer of Data (ETOD) for all hospitals who handle electronic forms and is planned for the latter part of 2009.

New Data Items added to Perinatal Form

These are some examples of new items:

- **Fetal monitoring in labour.** This will allow us to better describe and analyse intrapartum care
- **Estimated blood loss in mls** instead of 'PPH – yes or no', so that we can look at blood loss in various circumstances
- **Time of rupture of membranes, onset of labour, second stage and birth,** so that associations between these times and outcomes can be analysed.

These items are already recorded by midwives at all hospitals, but they are currently not sent to PDCU. We have tried to minimise extra work, but there are some important new items as well, including



Victorian Perinatal News Bulletin

No. 5 September 2008

- **smoking during pregnancy,**
- **maternal height**
- **maternal weight,**
- **type of care in pregnancy and labour/birth** (midwife, GP or obstetrician).

State-wide validation

Thankyou to the hospitals that have responded promptly to the request for monthly birth totals. If you have not responded to our request, it would be greatly appreciated if you could do so soon or contact us if there are any problems.

Publications

Births in Victoria 2005-2006 is available on the website

Birth Defects in Vic 2005 -2006 - distributed in August 2008 and will be available for viewing on the website soon

CCOPMM annual report for the year 2006 is available on the website

You can find copies of all our reports at www.health.vic.gov.au/perinatal

Clinical Questions

*One of the common presentation confusions is **Compound Presentation***

This description refers to **more than one presenting part**.
This does not include hand beside the face.

A compound presentation would be the hand appearing before the vertex.

Compound presentation describes the situation where there is an associated **PROLAPSE** of hand and/or foot in a cephalic presentation or hand(s) in a breech presentation.

Ref: Obstetrics and the Newborn third edition N.A.Beisher, E.V. Makay, P.B.Colditz, p451 & 452. 1986

Failed induction of labour

There has been some confusion about the definition of **'failed induction of labour'**. We ask that you report this when there has been an attempt to induce labour (including the use of prostaglandin gel), but the woman does not establish into labour. In this situation there would have been no analgesia during labour (because there was no established labour), although analgesia might have been given for other pain e.g. abruption, back pain.

Any caesarean in these circumstances would be an unplanned one before labour. It seems that a few midwives report **'failed induction of labour'** when labour has been successfully established, but **'failure to progress'** leads to caesarean section.

Perhaps the thinking is along the lines that induction of labour is intended to result in vaginal birth, so if the birth is not vaginal, the induction has 'failed'. However the focus is in fact on inducing **labour (not inducing vaginal birth)**. Please contact the liaison midwife if you have any questions about this, or you think there is a situation that should be an exception.

Feedback

The following email address, perinatal.data@dhs.vic.gov.au, is for you to communicate with us, whether it is for perinatal information, comments or concerns. We would appreciate your feedback on this bulletin. The next bulletin is scheduled for January 2009

Education and support

If you are requiring education or support relating to the Perinatal Morbidity Statistics form in 2008 please contact Diana (details below). We are interested to hear what type of support and education you think would be helpful in 2008.

Diana Stubbs

Research and Liaison Midwife

Alternate Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesday

ph. 90960380

e-mail: Diana.Stubbs@dhs.vic.gov.au