



Victorian Perinatal News Bulletin

No. 1 December 2006

Welcome to the first edition of the *Victorian Perinatal News Bulletin*. This Bulletin has been designed to keep you up to date with information from the Victorian Perinatal Data Collection Unit (VPDCU). It will be distributed quarterly.

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HIM, VPDCU.

As we are currently in negotiations over the position of Research and Liaison Midwife, the Health Information Managers (HIM) of the Unit are taking on many of these responsibilities, for example, validating forms from hospitals that are becoming computerised, dealing with queries etc.

VPDCU Staff News

Sara Scalzo is our new HIM who began in August coming from the Royal Women's Hospital with extensive coding and computing skills. For many of you who ring on (03)9096 2695 Sara will be your first point of contact.

Perinatal Website

The VPDCU website has recently been updated, and can be viewed at: www.health.vic.gov.au/perinatal. Please let us have your comments.

2005 Queries

The five most common queries sent in 2005 were:

- **Specifying whether the baby had phototherapy for jaundice**
- **Mismatch with the Total no. previous pregnancies**
- **Reason for induction**
- **Maternal Medical Condition eg specifying the type of mental illness**
- **Country/State of birth**

We have made changes to our database and are in the process of testing changes to the Query table and graphs that are normally sent

to you. The graphs will list the 5 most queried items per individual hospital. If any hospital is interested in receiving a Query graph for the 2005 data please contact the Unit. The 2006 Query graphs and tables will be sent once the 2006 data has been received and processed in February 2007.

Common queries we ask you

1. Infant of Diabetic mother

You may have noticed that we are now sending queries in relation to whether the baby of a diabetic mother had: observation only (whether or not they were admitted to SCN), or met the definition of "Syndrome of infant of a diabetic mother". This definition would be met by any baby whose mother had diabetes and who had macrosomia, hypoglycaemia or any other morbidity associated with the mother being diabetic. For those babies admitted to SCN with no morbidity documented, a query will be generated asking whether the baby was admitted for monitoring or whether the baby had the syndrome characterised by macrosomia, hypoglycaemia etc.

2. Jaundice/Phototherapy

There is no need to record jaundice on the perinatal form unless it is treated. Please specify the treatment eg jaundice treated with phototherapy. This will eliminate a large number of queries.

Recent Reports

Birth Defects in Victoria 2003 – 2004

This report was distributed on October 23rd and is available on our website.

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 first bulletin. The next bulletin is scheduled for March 2007.

Hospital Profiles for 2005 data

The Hospital Profiles on 2005 data have been sent to your hospital. Please ensure that you see a copy. If your hospital has more than 100 births then copies have been sent to: the DON, Charge MUM, Chief HIM, CEO, DOMs if applicable.

Every year changes are made to the format or content of the profiles in response to feedback received from you. This year the format has been changed to improve the flow of the information to make it more clinically relevant. Any feedback on content or layout is greatly appreciated.

The Victorian Birth Defects Register (VBDR)

The VBDR is a population based surveillance system containing information on pregnancies, babies and children who have birth defects diagnosed before 15 years of age. It is located with the Victorian Perinatal Data Collection Unit, Department of Human Services, and obtains notifications from the Perinatal Morbidity Statistics forms, paediatricians, maternal & child health nurses and other health professionals.

Enclosed is a copy of our revised pamphlet on **The Victorian Birth Defects Register**. After extensive consultation with health professionals and consumer groups we have developed a new brochure, which we hope may be of use to you in your hospital/clinic when you are consulting with mothers of babies with a birth defect. Not only does it provide some general information about our Register, but it also provides some contact details of various parents/children's support groups, and medical geneticists and counsellors.



VPDCU pamphlet

Enclosed with this bulletin is a copy of the VPDCU pamphlet. It provides information for Health professionals outlining the functions of the VPDCU, publications, the confidentiality and privacy policy and information on how to request data for research.

If you would like more copies of either of these pamphlets please contact us using the email or phone details provided:

Phone: 1300 858 505

Email: perinatal.data@dhs.vic.gov.au

Electronic Transfer of Data (ETOD) and Revision of the Perinatal form

The Perinatal Unit is currently working on the Electronic Transfer of Data project with other areas within DHS.

There is also a major revision of the perinatal form underway. We are trying to run the two projects together to minimise the disruption and changes at the hospital site.

After extensive consultation with the field, we hope that the collection will change in 2008 with the addition of some new data items, and changes to some existing data items making them more consistent with the National Health Data Dictionary format.

Work is continuing on both these projects and the specifications should be available soon. A sample of hospital sites will be invited to participate in a pilot study in mid to late 2007.

We will keep you informed of our progress and the proposed implementation timelines.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and hard work. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.