



Victorian Perinatal News Bulletin

No. 4 April 2008

Welcome to the fourth 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/perinata

Gemma Wills
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 have moved from Public Health to the State-wide Quality and Safety branch of the Department of Human Resources. Our contact details remain the same.

Michael Batchelor will be leaving the unit and we thank him for all his hard work managing VPDCU over the years. We would like to welcome Anne-Maree Szauer as the acting manager of CCOPMM.

The unit will be recruiting a half-time Research and Liaison midwife to cover maternity leave. An advertisement will be sent out to all maternity units and relevant agencies in the next month.

New Perinatal Morbidity Statistics (PMS) form.

The VPDCU is developing an updated version of the PMS form. The new version will include a number of new data collection items as well as some changes to some existing items.

We are currently piloting a draft of the new form. A state-wide communication strategy will precede the implementation date of 1 January, 2009.

State-wide validation

Due to the poor ascertainment of Perinatal Morbidity Statistics (PMS) forms in 2006 we have repeated the state-wide validation for 2007 births. To avoid this same problem year after year we have requested monthly totals of births for each hospital be sent to the VPDCU, beginning from births in 2008. We can then match this number against the number of forms that have been received for that month.

I would like to thank hospitals that have responded promptly to this request. 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.

Queries

We are interested in reducing the number of queries related to the PMS forms that we send back to hospitals. Queries are time consuming for all involved. To reduce the number of queries at your hospital we recommend the following:

- Having a midwife responsible for checking the forms before being sent to VPDCU.
- A 'learn by your mistake' approach to responding to queries. That is, giving midwives feedback about the types of errors they are making in order to correct them.
- Regular in-services and education about the forms.
- A regular review of the form process and the query rate for your hospital.

Publications

Births in Victoria 2004-2005 is expected to be complete and ready for distribution by end of June 2008.

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

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.

Education and support

If you are requiring education or support relating to the Perinatal Morbidity Statistics form in 2008 please contact the Research and Liaison Midwife (details below).

Gemma Wills
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