

Case Study: Optimisation Pocket Guide



BACKGROUND

Optimisation of preterm babies requires prompt, decisive management due to the time critical nature of preterm labour.

Labour <34 weeks is often much quicker and unpredictable than at term and some optimisation interventions such as steroids and intravenous antibiotics require administration hours before delivery to be as effective as possible.

Since launching electronic documentation, records of care and medication administration decreased in quality and accuracy.

A pocket guide was designed and produced to help the midwifery team administer steroids, magnesium sulphate and antibiotics quickly. All doses, allergy alternatives and administration rates are documented in one place which can be carried in uniform pockets for quick reference.

Documentation prompts are included helping accurate records and review of care.

Postnatal care guidance is provided to improve normothermia rates, use of the LifeStart trolley to facilitate optimal cord clamping and hand expression support.

Pocket guides were handed out on delivery suite and the resource is presented at annual mandatory training by the specialist preterm midwife.

SOLUTION

CHALLENGES

Rotational staff and new staff do not all have pocket guides and there is the possibility staff will misplace their guides if they aren't used frequently.

There is currently no designated space to store resources useful when caring for women in preterm labour.

LEARNING

Timely administration of medications appears to have improved since the introduction of the pocket guides.

Documentation improvement work is ongoing including exploring the option to pull information from the maternal notes.

Further work is needed to improve availability of the guides and mitigate against the risk of them being lost – there are plans to create a trolley which will be used when caring for all women in preterm labour. This will have patient information leaflets, the pocket guide, giving sets, syringes and needles required to administer drugs, NeoHelp bags and small hats and hand expression packs.

CONCLUSION

Caring for women in preterm labour can be acutely stressful with many important tasks needing to be completed in a timely manner.

The pocket guide aims to present all useful information and priorities in one place for reference.

Work is ongoing to ensure pocket guides are always accessible when required.