

Case Study: Antenatal Optimisation at Bolton NHS FT



BACKGROUND

Accurate prediction of preterm labour / need for preterm birth.

Women deemed at risk are counselled regarding the risks of preterm birth and are made aware of need for steroids, MgSO₄ and antibiotics should preterm birth be predicted.

Preterm clinic sees women considered high risk of preterm birth.

Full detailed history for women presenting at triage with suspicion of preterm birth. RBH use BSOTs questioning and care pathways.

SOLUTION

- Devised a sticker for the front of the hand held notes that documented when Steroids, Magnesium Sulphate and Intrapartum Antibiotics had been given.
- A box has been added to green antenatal notes to document when steroids/MgSO₄ is given, green notes follow woman so other units will have this information if woman is transferred out.
- Women are now given a passport which then follows the baby to NICU with all relevant information.

CHALLENGES

- A major challenge has been the short supply of fetal fibronectin swabs.
- Actim Partus are still being used but are not as reliable and often give false positive results.
- A massive challenge has been accurate data collection. Drugs are recorded in 4 different places which poses a challenge when trying to collate data.

LEARNING

- Getting the data right is crucial
- Fibronectin supply continues to be an issue and will continue to be so for the near future
- Parents require more information about signs and symptoms of preterm labour.

CONCLUSION

- Robust data collection improves results
- Fibronectin supply continues to be unreliable for all Trusts.
- Women and partners now receiving 'Improving outcomes for preterm babies – information for parents' leaflet.