Computerised perinatal data collection: The midwives experience

Perinatal data - What is it
Why is it important?
Perinatal data - What is it
Why is it important?
Perinatal data collection – Queensland

• Collected Australia wide
• Monitors patterns of mortality and morbidity of mothers and their babies
• Used for research, education, funding & midwifery/obstetric patterns of care
QUEENSLAND PERINATAL DATA COLLECTION FORM

MR63D - mother
Research Aim:

To understand the factors that influence midwives when collecting and entering perinatal data.

Midwives collect birth related population data via the perinatal data collection form

- paper
- computer
- extract from their institutions HIS
Midwives collect birth related population data via the perinatal data collection form:

- paper
- computer
- extract from their institutions HIS

Computerized entry of data commenced in public hospitals in Queensland, 2009. Private hospitals began even earlier and the issues for Midwives have not been examined.
In Queensland:

Computerised entry of perinatal data –
Public sector 2009
Private sector earlier

Issues for Midwives have not been examined

- Grounded Theory methodology
- In depth interviews with Midwives & coordinators
- Informing the development of a substantive theory
- Explanation not validation
• Grounded Theory methodology
• In depth interviews with Midwives & coordinators
• Informing the development of a substantive theory
• Explanation not validation
EMERGENT THEMES

Midwives Role
Shifting focus - Technology invading birth
'Technology Challenges'
Midwives role

• Traditional role:
  • hands on care
  • paper charting
• Perceptions of others
• Risk of being seen as lazy
• Administration Vs Clinical

[Image of a midwife]
"And I think for me it’s not as high on the list of priorities as getting the baby and mother well looked after."

"They don’t necessarily see that technology side of things as part of their nice midwifery role."
Technology invading birth

Hand held computers
Being with women not computers
Medicalisation of childbirth

"But to actually move technology into a place it doesn't belong. You know you have monitors that we have monitors. How much do monitors take away from the ambiance."
"But to actually move it (computer) into birth suite I think would be for me intrusive, it’s bringing technology into a place where technology doesn’t belong. You know yourself the difference that even the monitors that we have, now we have to have the monitors. How much difference, it just changes the ambiance."
Technology Challanges

- Password lockouts
- Password sharing
- Loss of data
- ‘Rebooting’ & Freezing
- Security
- Clinically ‘bizarre’ questions/queries
"The way it reads to me is that it hasn’t been written by a clinician. I don’t know whether that’s true or not or it hasn’t been complied by clinicians because some of it doesn’t seem to make sense."

"The paper and electronic versions are different to each other so they’re out of sequence."
"The way it reads to me is that it hasn’t been written by a clinician. I don’t know whether that’s true or not or it hasn’t been complied by clinicians because some of it doesn’t seem to make sense."

"The paper and electronic versions are different to each other so they’re out of sequence."
Valuing perinatal data

- Beneficial relationship
- Understanding use
- Engagement with process
Recommendations

Clinicians involved in design education and training be uniform. Professional development include understanding of perinatal data. Auto save function. Single point login. Better access to computers. 24hr tech support. Assign accountability for entry interoperable systems?
Alison Craswell
ajc558@uowmail.edu.au

Computerised perinatal data collection: The midwives experience

**Research Aim:**
To understand risk factors that influence awareness when collecting and interpreting perinatal data.

**Emergent Themes**
- Midwives' role
- Shift focus: Technology in midwifery
- Technology: Challenges

**Technology Challenges**
- Powerlessness in decision-making
- Loss of data
- Clinically relevant questions
- Relating/refeeding
- Security

**Technology Invading Birth**
Hand-held computers linking with women and computers
Medication of childbirth

**Valuing perinatal data**
- Personal vs professional
- Understanding role
- Engagement with professionals

**Recommendations**
- Increased knowledge
- Understanding role
- Engagement with professionals