

IFSE Pilot Education Program

Executive Summary

The Intrapartum Fetal Surveillance Education and Credentialing Pilot Project, was a collaboration between The Three Centres (Southern Health, The Mercy Hospital for Women, The Royal Women's Hospital), Monash University, The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Australian College of Midwives Incorporated (Vic branch) and was jointly funded by the Department of Human Services (DHS), Victorian State Government and the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA).

The principal objective of The Project was to develop, implement and evaluate a pilot education program in Intrapartum Fetal Surveillance that might be suitable for future application on a state wide basis. The rationale behind the development of such a program was the recognition that inadequate or inappropriate intrapartum fetal surveillance was a common feature of adverse obstetric outcomes in Victoria and the expectation that targeted education could, at least in part, rectify this.

As detailed in the final report, the principal objective has been achieved and surpassed. The educational framework and resources developed in this pilot project have been established to a sufficient extent to allow successive rollout of intrapartum fetal surveillance education to all interested Victorian public maternity hospitals in 2005 and beyond. In addition to this principle objective, mapping of current intrapartum fetal surveillance, education and credentialing practices in the Victorian public hospital system was undertaken, to inform and guide future educational developments in this field. A template for clinical practice audit was also developed, to allow monitoring of practice before and after educational intervention. The final report describes in detail the developmental stages of The Pilot Project, including those processes that ensured the satisfactory and timely completion of the project, and summarises the results of the project, including participant and external evaluation.

The highlights of the project outcomes are:

- Five hours of educational material developed and delivered
- Development of a dedicated CTG bank
- Development of summative assessment (MCQ) bank
- 10 pilot hospitals participated including 5 metropolitan and 5 rural hospitals
- 439 personnel completed the education program including 59 doctors and 379 midwives
- Mean participant assessment score increased by over 48% following education
- "Excellent" external expert evaluation of course content
- Firm endorsement of quality and value by participant evaluation
- Detailed mapping of current IFS/CTG educational strengths and needs across the State
- Development of CPD tools for GPs and Specialists

In summary, the Pilot Project has laid the foundations for an on-going Intrapartum Fetal Surveillance Education Program and created an environment suitable for the development of a competency testing program. A considerable amount of work remains to be undertaken including the further development of the educational material, the development of other delivery formats (eg web-enabled, CD-ROM etc), the development of further assessment material (both formative and summative) and the training of additional "teachers" to allow wider delivery.

Euan M Wallace and Mark Beaves, on behalf of the Pilot Project Working Party