

Maternity Services Forum

Communique | July 2017



What has occurred since January 2017?

Since the last communique in January 2017 the Maternity Services Action Groups action plans have been finalised and were endorsed by the Queensland Health System Leadership Team in May 2017.

The name of each action group has changed slightly but the focus of their work remains the same. The leadership working groups have met a number of times and at least once with the consultation groups. Work has commenced to support delivery of the actions in 2017/2018.

Action Plan Summary:

Group 1: Collaborative Leadership Culture

- Define desired or aspirational culture.
- Develop, pilot and evaluate a tool for maternity services to self-assess against culture, leadership and care criteria.
- Develop individual actions plans and improvement initiatives for the pilot maternity services sites to achieve desired culture.



Group 2: Identification and management of risk in pregnancy

- Identify best practice antenatal education and develop recommendations for antenatal education.
- Develop new / refine existing clinician decision-making tools.
- Develop new / refine existing key decision-making tools for women.
- Determine strategies to increase clinician compliance with clinical guidelines.
- Develop a guidance document for partnering with women who decline recommended care.
- Facilitate the establishment of regional peer-support meetings and networks.
- Identify core maternity indicators for clinicians and consumers.

Group 3: Models of Care and Workforce

- Identify current maternity models of care across Queensland.
- Ensure best practice maternity model of care is aligned with and supported by Clinical Services Capability Framework levels.
- Identify tools to assist HHSs in aligning workforce with recommended maternity model of care
- Identify collaboration, communications and cultural components that support transition to and maintenance of continuity of care models of care.

Membership of the consultation groups is open to all. If you would like to participate in any of the groups please contact PSQIS_Maternity@health.qld.gov.au or 3328 9854.

Clinical Excellence Division

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Challenges for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

In addition to the three key themes identified at the Maternity Services Forum, challenges for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) mothers, babies and their families were raised. A further discussion with a specific focus on the needs and expectations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers, babies and their families has been proposed to be undertaken at an upcoming forum scheduled for 3 August 2017, which will precede a meeting of the Queensland Clinical Senate scheduled for 4 August 2017 where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health issues will also be discussed.

Maternity Services Forum Steering Committee

The Maternity Services Forum Steering Committee has been established and met in February and April 2017. It reviewed and endorsed the Maternity Services Action plan in late April 2017 and will oversee the implementation of the plan at quarterly meetings throughout the year. The Committee is chaired by Dr John Wakefield, Deputy Director-General, Clinical Excellence Division and includes key stakeholders such as the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Australian College of Midwives, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, Health Consumers Queensland (HCQ), Maternity Choices Australia and Hospital and Health Services.

What's changed since the Forum?

Dr John Wakefield challenged attendees of the November 2016 Maternity Services Forum to transform the day's discussions into actions. He asked each Hospital and Health Service (as represented at the forum by an obstetrician, midwife and consumer) to meet subsequent to the forum to reflect on the forum and consider an action that could be committed to in changing their local service. There is much statewide interest in knowing what HHSs have achieved to-date. If your HHS is willing to share in the next Communique a change or an improvement that has occurred as a result of this local meeting between the obstetrician, midwife and consumer represented for your HHS, please contact the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Service on the below details.

For further information

For assistance or further information please contact the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Service on PSQIS_Maternity@health.qld.gov.au or 3328 9854.