Dear Colleague

Scottish Woman Held Maternity Record

Purpose

In order to improve quality of care by enhancing the standard of record keeping and access to standardised maternity records, we need to move to full implementation of the Scottish Woman Held Maternity Record (SWHMR) across Scotland. This is a unified, handheld record in which all professionals sharing responsibility for a woman’s maternity care document their information and test results.

Background

Previously, the Chief Nursing Officer requested that NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS) develop a hand-held maternity record in line with principle 27 of A Framework for Maternity Services in Scotland. Project management was undertaken by the former Nursing and Midwifery Practice Development Unit, now a part of NHS QIS. Stakeholder involvement in development of the tool included a reference group with lay and professional group representatives, a survey of maternity unit staff and records in use, and a one-month national consultation targeting a range of lay and professional organisations with interests in maternity services. The record was launched in August 2005 by the Chief Nursing Officer, with the aim of implementation across Scotland.

A requirement to use a national, unified handheld record is contained in the Maternity Standards produced by NHS QIS. Some Scottish Public Services Ombudsman’s reports have highlighted substantial issues around maternity record keeping and noted that use of SWHMR would have addressed or avoided these issues.

16th February 2007

Addresses

For action
NHS Board Chief Executives
Chief Executives Special Boards
Medical Directors
Nursing Directors
Heads of Midwifery
Lead Midwives
CHP General Managers
General Practitioners

For information
Directors of Public Health

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Action

NHS QIS will ensure that:

- SWHMR is distributed to all NHS Boards in the week beginning 12 February 2007. The initial print run will provide each Board with a 6 month supply of records and a CD of the PDF files will also be provided.

NHS Boards are to ensure that:

- SHWMR is introduced from 1st March 2007 so that all pregnant women booked in are using SHWMR by 31st May 2007.
- SHWMR is introduced from 1st March 2007 so that all women going into labour are using SWHMR by 31st May 2007.
- All pregnant women are using SWHMR by 31st December 2007.
- A lead staff member is nominated to be responsible for the implementation of SWHMR, co-ordinate and provide feedback on the new record to the National User Group.
- All relevant health professionals are made aware of the guidance for use of the record, which is available at:
  http://www.nhshealthquality.org/nhsqis/files/21366%20NHSQIS%20%28SWHMR%29Project.pdf
- Further supplies of the record are maintained after the copies supplied by NHS QIS are used. NHS Boards may wish to collaborate regionally/nationally to co-ordinate further print runs.
- GPs are informed of the need to recognise SWHMR, as recommended by the Ombudsman and NHS QIS, in place of the maternity co-op cards. In line with requirements in the NHS QIS Maternity Standards to use a national, unified handheld record it is good practice that GPs write in the record. It will however be acceptable for GPs to give the woman in possession of the SWHMR a signed copy of appropriate entries concerning the woman’s interactions and visits to the GP, from their computerised or manual record system, in compliance with the Data Protection Act (1998) and any subsequent relevant amendments.

SEHD will ensure that:

- A National User Group is established to co-ordinate feedback from users and recommend and organise any changes to SWHMR.
- Evaluation of SWHMR is conducted from April 2008 to June 2008 (inclusive).

As there is considerable advantage in producing an electronic version of the SWHMR, SEHD is pleased to announce that such a development is currently being investigated in line with the Scottish Executive’s eHealth strategy. Further information will follow.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

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