The Midwifery Practice Audit
Can reducing caesarean section rates really be this simple?

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Background for Midwifery Audit

- C section rates doubled in last 10 years but no significant reduction in perinatal mortality
- Some maternity units reporting C section rates of 30% and more.....
- Rising Caesarean section rate at Pembury (27%)

Does normal birth really have to be like this?.....

Ideas for Normal Birth

- Homebirth
- Changes to environment
- Complementary therapies
- VBAC Clinics
- Use of water

- MIDWIFERY AUDIT

Caesarean section rates
3 Month rolling average
Jun 2003 - May 2004

	Jun-Aug	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May
% Caesarean section rate	28.7	21.6	18.1	22.9

Note drop in caesarean section rates after 3 months of audit
Was this a coincidence.....?

MIDWIFERY AUDIT TOOL

Hospital Number ……

Date …… …. Parity …… Spontaneous/IOL/Augumentation (circle)

Any risk factors on admission ……
C.T.G. – Indication …… - Not performed
If C.T.G used in labour – Indication ……

Were the following discussed, give summary:

- Birth plan Y/N ……
- Home from Home Y/N ……
- Positions for labour Y/N ……
- Eating & Drinking Y/N ……
- Support Strategies Y/N ……

Date/time of diagnosis of established labour ……
Date/time S.R.M./A.R.M. ……

Palpation Y/N												
Position on palpation												
Decent												
Mum's position												
Support strategy												
Food												
10cm												
9 cm												
8 cm												
7 cm												
6 cm												
5 cm												
4 cm												
3 cm												
2 cm												
1 cm												
Effacement												
	1hr	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Liquor												
Syntocinon												

Key:

Palpation = LOA, ROP etc
Descent = 3/5 or +1 if on V.E. etc
Mum's Position : ST = standing, BA = ball, CH = chair, K = kneeling, AF = all fours, SQ = squatting, SB = sitting on bed, SR = semi-recumbent, RL = right lateral, LL = left lateral, BU = Budda, L = lithotomy.
Support Strategies: S = support, W = water, T = tens, EN= Entonox, CT = Complimentary Therapies, P = Pethidine, EP = epidural
Food: Y = yes, N = no
Liquor = I = intact, C = clear, B = blood stained, M = meconium
Syntocinon = maximum rate in hour (mls)

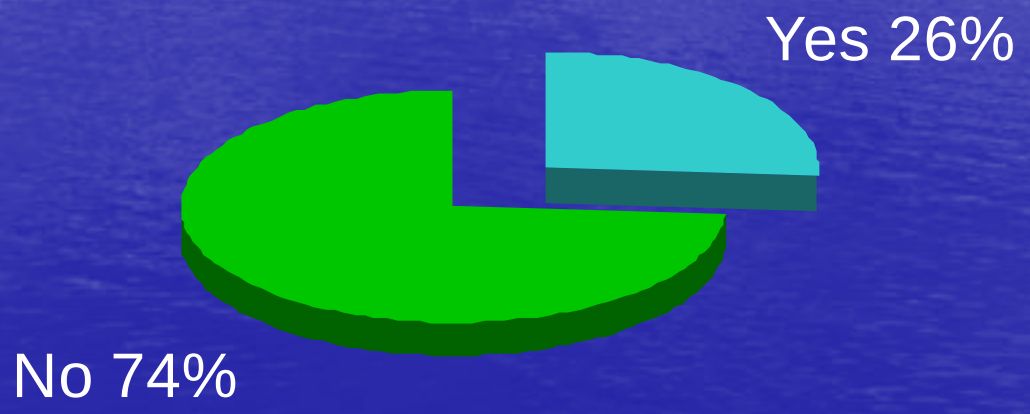
Please turn over

Second Stage

Did it change practice?

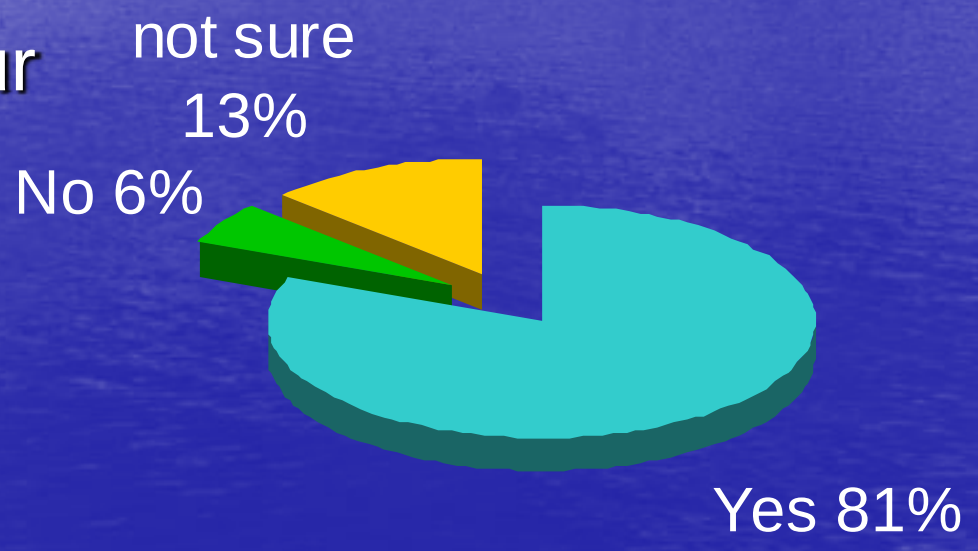
In a staff survey we asked.....

- Did it change your practice?



Did it change practice?

- Did it change your colleagues practice?



Midwifery Audit 2007-2008 Standards for audit

Four standards agreed relating to normal birth

- Admission CTG
- CTG monitoring in labour
- Upright positions
- Spontaneous pushing in 2nd stage

Midwifery audit 2007-2008 Method

Tool design principles

- Commenced on admission
- Hourly review and recording
- Subliminal messages

Ownership at ‘shop floor’ level

- Caesarean section rate fed back monthly
- Peer review
- Dealing with resistance

Midwifery Audit 2007-2008

Results of audit demonstrated:

- CTG monitoring appropriately performed 97% time
- Room for improvement re upright positioning and use of directed pushing
- Home from home facility underused

Midwifery Audit 2007-2008

But what happened to the caesarean section rates this time around ?.....

Caesarean section rates 3 month rolling average Jul 2007 - Sept 2008

	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
% Caesarean section rate	27.1	29	24.7	24.5	23.6

Note drop in caesarean section rates again.....

Pembury Hospital
Maternity outcomes 2007 vs 2008

	2007	2008
SVD	61%	64.%
Instrumental	13%	13%
C section	26%	23%

Maternity Outcomes for Spontaneous Nulliparous women at term 2007 vs 2008

	2007	2008
SVD	56.5%	63%
Instrumental	25.4%	25.5%
Em c section	18.1%	11.5%

Discussion – can it be this simple?

- Significant reduction in caesarean section rates after both audits
- Audit can never determine cause and effect
- Hawthorn effect ?

A way of changing practice at ‘grass roots’ level?.....

- Challenging the medical model
- Midwives taking ownership of intrapartum care
- Building midwifery confidence to use evidence based care
- Translating the evidence into practice

Way forward
New audit.....new standards

- Use of water
- Use of home from home facility

Thank you

Any questions?