# Re-Audit of evidence based guidelines for midwifery led care in labour (RCM 2005) and audit of NICE CG 55 Intrapartum Care (2007) regarding Women's Choice and Control during Childbirth

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# RCM Guidelines (2005)

Statement:

Based on a philosophy committed to maximising normal birth by ensuring that a range of options is available to women

# NICE CG 55 Intrapartum Care (2007)

Criterion:

All women in labour should be treated with respect and should be in control of and involved in what is happening to them, and the way in which care is given is key to this

# The guidelines include

- Women should receive clear, unbiased advice regarding place of birth (DoH 1993, RCM 2005)
- Women should be offered the choice of planning birth at home, in a midwife-led unit or in an obstetric unit (NICE 2007)

# Criteria and Standards

- 6 criteria, 10 standards
- These covered:
  - choice of place of birth
  - assisting women to compile a birthplan
  - providing options regarding coping strategies
  - positions for labour and birth
  - options for the third stage of labour

# Audits Carried Out

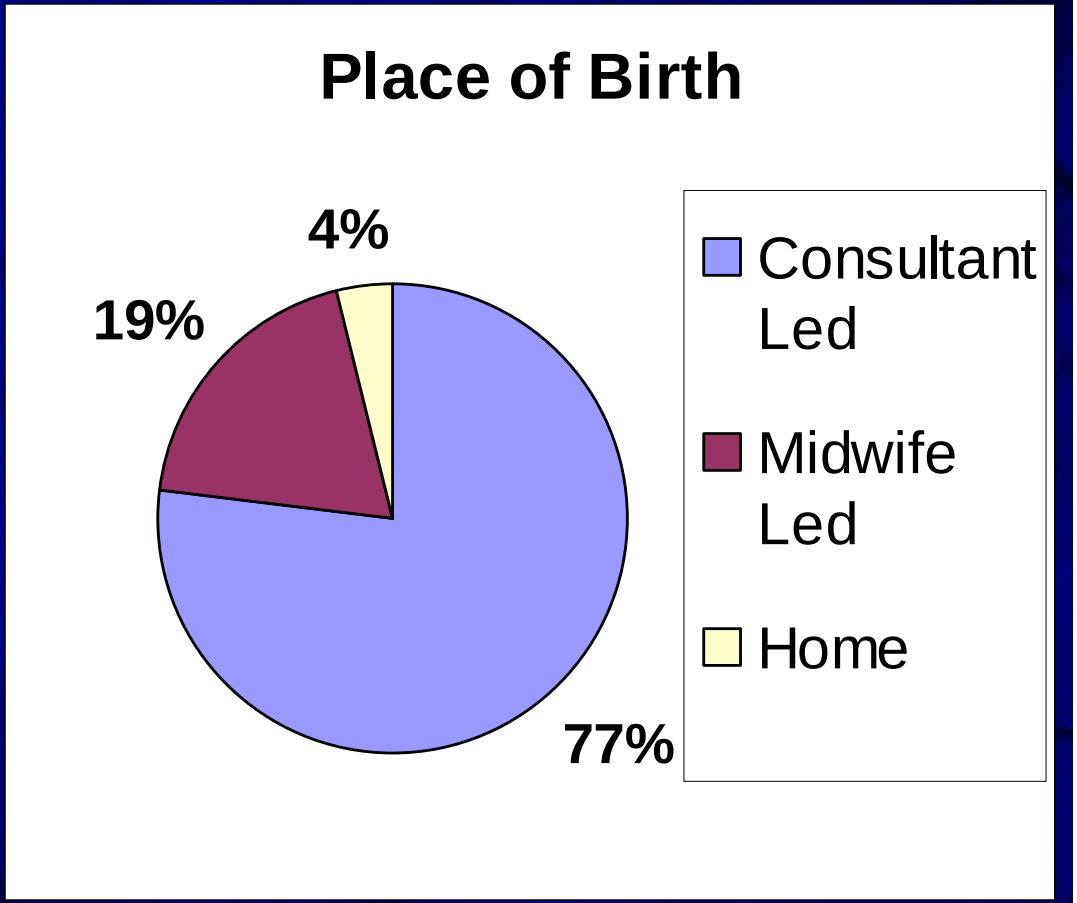
| Year | Audit | Method |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | Evidence based guidelines for midwifery led care in labour (RCM 2005) | Case note Review |
| 2008 | Evidence based guidelines for midwifery led care in labour (RCM 2005) and audit of NICE Intrapartum Guidelines (2007) | Case note Review / Questionnaire |

# 2006 Audit - Methodology

- Population was the total number of women (764) who had received midwifery led care during pregnancy, labour and birth between 1 July – 31 December 2005
- A sample of 200 cases was selected
- Data was collected through case note review

# 2008 Re-audit - Methodology

- Sample was the first 200 women who gave birth at the Jessop Wing and at home (in Sheffield) from the first week in September 2008
- Data was collected through case note review and postal questionnaire



# Audit Standards and Results

| Standards: 100% of women | Results 2006 | Results 2008 |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Are given options regarding choice of place of birth | 73% (146/200) | 83% (73/88) (questionnaire) |
| 2. Are informed of the potential risks and benefits of each birth setting | Not measured | 70% (60/86) (questionnaire) |
| 3. Are given support by a midwife to write a birthplan | 62% (124/200) | 76% (76/100) (casenotes) |
| 4. Have options discussed regarding overall coping strategies for labour | 30% (60/200) | 50% (50/100) (casenotes) |
| 5. Have options discussed regarding positions for labour | 29% (57/200) | 49% (49/100) (casenotes) |

# Audit Standards and Results

| Standards: 100% of women | Results 2006 | Results 2008 |
|---|---|---|
| 6. Are given options regarding the management of the third stage of labour | 48% (95/200) | 67% (67/100) (case notes) |
| 7. Should initially be offered non pharmacological methods of coping with pain relief, including massage | 30% (60/200) | 75% (59/78) (questionnaire) |
| 8. Receive supportive one-to-one midwifery care when in established labour | Not measured | 96% (80/83) (questionnaire) |

# Audit Standards and Results

| Standards: 100% 0f women; | Results 2006 | Results 2008 |
|---|---|---|
| 9. Are given the option of labouring in water (All women in the sample, including those who gave birth in the CLU, were asked if they were given the option of labouring in water) | Not measured | 59% (51/86) (questionnaire) |
| 10. Are informed of the risks and benefits of an epidural and the implications for labour. | Not measured | 73% (63/86) (questionnaire) |

# Additional Results - Postal Questionnaire

Were you offered other forms of pain relief during labour?

75% (59/78) respondents were offered other forms of pain relief during their labour

'Other forms of pain relief' included;

- Mobilising 66% (39/59)
- Massage 36% (21/59)
- Breathing 84% (49/59)
- Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (Tens) 47% (28/59)

# Additional Results – Postal Questionnaire

Did you at any time during your labour feel that your midwife left you alone for an unacceptable period of time?

4% (3/83) said that they had been left alone for an unacceptable period of time

If yes, how long you were left alone

67% (2/3) answered this question:

- Slow labour so asked to go to antenatal ward. Felt quite isolated and left to progress alone
- For one hour after delivery

# Additional Results - Postal Questionnaire

If you were told of the advantages and disadvantages of an epidural, who told you?

- Midwife 75% (47/63)
- Anaesthetist 39% (24/63)
- Obstetrician 3% (2/63)
- Others 6% (4/63)

49% (42/86) considered having an epidural before labour

# Dissemination of Results

Survey results have been displayed in:

- ANC at the Jessop Wing
- Children's Centres
- GP Surgeries

Audit Results have been dissemination to Midwifery and Medical staff at the Jessop Wing

# Changes Implemented

- Homebirth Service is available to all women with uncomplicated pregnancies
- Women with uncomplicated pregnancies can choose to give birth at the Midwife Led Unit
- Community and Hospital Midwives are committed to facilitating normal birth wherever possible

# Contact Details

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