



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
ACUTE HEALTH DIVISION
QUALITY BRANCH

MATERNITY SERVICES
ENHANCEMENT
STRATEGY

Department of
Human Services
(Incorporating:
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Housing, Aboriginal
Affairs, Youth and
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POSTNATAL DOMICILIARY
SERVICE AUDIT
(March 1999)

Purpose:

Initial drafts of Maternity Services Enhancement Plans, submitted by Networks, Rural Regions and non network Metropolitan Hospitals have identified various forms of hospital postnatal domiciliary services that are provided. This audit is being conducted by the Department to provide an overall picture of postnatal domiciliary provision, and to identify local policies, criteria and service arrangements, as well as gaps in service provision. The intent is to use this information to assist the further development of the Maternity Services Enhancement Strategy (MSES).

Background:

The Ministerial Review of Birthing Services in Victoria (1990) stated that domiciliary midwifery services should be offered post discharge to all women irrespective of whether or not they were discharged early from hospital. It recommended routine daily visits by a midwife available to day 5 and negotiable thereafter to day 10.

The State Government announced in the 1998/99 Budget, that a package of enhanced maternity care services across Victoria would be implemented over four years. This includes improved postnatal care for women and their families, according to clinical and psycho-social needs. Women are to be offered as a minimum requirement :

- at least one postnatal home visit for all women without complications following discharge from hospital

Requirements:

Health Care Networks, Rural Regions and non network Metropolitan Hospitals are asked to complete the following questions in relation to all hospitals within their catchment that provide public maternity services. Completed questionnaires should be returned to Laure Graham by fax : (03) 9616 8347 or email: laurene.graham@dhs.vic.gov.au by **6 April 1999**.

Postnatal Domiciliary Questionnaire

(March 1999)

Network : _____

Hospital : _____

1. Please identify the average number of postnatal domiciliary visits offered to the following groups of women:

- women without complications following discharge from hospital
- women from diverse cultural backgrounds
- newly arrived migrants
- single young mothers
- women with disabilities
- first time mothers
- women after a caesarean section, complications
- women with other medical complications
- other

2. What are the criteria you use to decide how many postnatal domiciliary visits a woman requires?

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3. What percentage of women who deliver at hospital in your network/service receive at least one postnatal domiciliary visit.

	%
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4. By the time the Strategy is fully implemented, all women using maternity services in public hospitals should be offered at least one postnatal home visit. Women who need additional support, such as those women who experience complications in child birth, women with difficulties in the immediate postnatal period, or women with special needs, such as women from a Non English speaking background who are new arrivals,

single young mothers and women with disabilities, should be offered additional postnatal home visits.

If your network/service does not already meet these minimum requirements, please identify the main problems in meeting the requirements.

5. Please outline any proposed improvements in the level of postnatal domiciliary support to be implemented in your Maternity Services Enhancement Plan.

6. Do you have any purchasing arrangements with other providers of postnatal domiciliary services ? Yes/No (circle one response)

If Yes, provide further detail, including the name of the provider/s and attach any protocols.

7. Are any costs incurred by mothers receiving postnatal domiciliary support ?
Yes/No (circle one response)

If Yes, please outline payment criteria and arrangements.

8. Does the postnatal domiciliary service have eligibility or inclusion criteria?
Yes/No (circle one response)

If yes, either provide details below, or attach with returned questionnaire.

9. Is the hospital currently reporting on the new monthly AIMS Reporting requirement (111D1) about postnatal domiciliary services ? Yes/No (circle one response)

If not, provide further detail on problems that exist in meeting this requirement.

10. Please provide any additional comments in relation to the existing postnatal domiciliary service below.