

# Confidential Enquiries into Diabetic Pregnancies in the West Midlands

Shuter C, Brydon P, McGeown P, Oakley W, Benn J, Pickrell D, Jenkins D, MacKenzie W, Dunne F.  
Perinatal Institute, Crystal Court, Aston Cross, Birmingham, B6 5RQ

The multiethnic, multicultural population of the West Midlands region is 5 million, with 70,000 births per year, mainly in 21 units.

Diabetes mellitus continues to pose problems in pregnancy as the outcome for both mother and baby is less satisfactory when compared with the non diabetic population.

To achieve the targets set by St Vincent (1989) it was realised that strategies needed to be put in place. Local analysis of diabetic pregnancies showed higher incidence of type 2 in this region.

Regional confidential enquiries were undertaken for diabetic pregnancies using the same cohort as for the national enquiry.

A modified proforma was used as well as the traditional CESDI grading (1992) that has been used for previous enquiries i.e. grade 0 for no sub-optimal care, up to grade 3 for sub-optimal care, where different management **would reasonably have been expected** to have made a difference to the outcome.

## CESDI Grading

- ❖ Grade 0 – No suboptimal care
- ❖ Grade 1 – Suboptimal care, but different management would of made no difference to the outcome
- ❖ Grade 2 – Suboptimal care – different management might have made a difference to the outcome
- ❖ Grade 3 – Suboptimal care – different management would reasonably have been expected to have made a difference to the outcome

CESDI Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy

- ❖ 74% of the cases where there were congenital malformations and where death occurred were graded as sub-optimal
- ❖ 32% of Diabetic care was found to be sub-optimal
- ❖ 29% of maternity care was found to be sub-optimal
- ❖ 42% of Diabetes notes & 27% of obstetric notes had deficiencies.
- ❖ 71% had deficiencies in hospital protocols & 60% of those were where care was not thought to be sub-optimal
- ❖ 50% panels felt there was room for improvement in the woman's approach to managing her pre-conceptual care
- ❖ 14% panels thought the woman's approach to managing her diabetes in pregnancy was poor irrelevant of CESDI grading

A report outlining the key findings from this project is planned and will be disseminated to all relevant parties. Many areas have already been highlighted where further work is required such as deficiencies in protocols and standardised documentation to improve communication.