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Dear Colleague

Updating Maternity Records

The Perinatal Institute has commenced a revision of the West Midlands Pregnancy Health Record (the 'green notes'). These notes have continued to be in demand after the introduction of the national notes, and we supply them for the majority of maternities in this region, as well as to some units in other regions. However, the Green Notes, dated 1992, are now in urgent need of updating, to incorporate advances and recommendations in many aspects of pregnancy care - including antenatal screening, ultrasound, fetal surveillance, and advice on maternal options in pregnancy.

In a separate development, the administration of the National Maternity Record (the buff and white notes) has moved to Birmingham earlier this year, to be looked after by the Perinatal Institute, and WMPI is now represented on the Steering Group of the National Maternity Record Project (NMRP). This group has projects underway to develop Intrapartum and Postnatal notes, and we are assisting with these developments. As regards their national antenatal record, the NMRP recognises that the up-take has not lived up to expectation, as they are still only used in about 15% of pregnancies in the country. It wants to consider recommendations for revisions by the Perinatal Institute.

While WMPI's first priority is to provide new maternity notes for our region, we recognise that this is a unique opportunity to perhaps bring together two currently competing methods, allowing mothers, midwives and doctors to use the same notes, wherever they are. We hope to move in this direction by using the best principles from both notes, and to adapt them to today's needs. I have set up a multidisciplinary in-house project team, and we are developing some new ideas which aim for the record to be mother-friendly and personalised, informative and evidence based, and easy to use for all parties involved in the care. We have set a fairly brisk schedule, and intend to have the new notes ready for piloting by Easter 2002.

We would welcome your input! Whether you are using the 'Green' or the 'National' notes, what would you like to improve on? Which features would you like to get rid of, and which would you like to keep? Please send your comments and suggestions by **19 October 2001** to WMPI (attn: Joyce Emanuel) or e-mail to notes@wmpi.net

With sincere regards

Jason O. Gardosi
Director, WMPI

Distribution: West Midlands -

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