



Perinatal Mortality Group (PMG)
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Improving Perinatal Mortality Review & Outcomes Via Education (IMPROVE)



www.stillbirthalliance.org.au

EVALUATION REPORT 2010-2012

(for the public domain)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Improving Perinatal Mortality Review and Outcomes Via Education (IMPROVE) Program has been developed through an iterative process of review and refinement (based on educator and participant feedback) since the first Australian and New Zealand Stillbirth Alliance (ANZSA) / Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) Perinatal Mortality Group (PMG) workshop as a satellite meeting of the PSANZ Congress at the Gold Coast in 2008. The program was initiated by the ANZSA Board and undertaken as part of the ANZSA Clinical Practice and Education Committee. Piloting at the Gold Coast meeting and subsequently at Royal Darwin Hospital (NT), Mater Mothers Hospitals (QLD), King Edward Memorial Hospital (WA) and in Wellington at another ANZSA/PSANZ PMG satellite meeting of the PSANZ Congress was supported by funds provided by PSANZ and The Mater Foundation.

We would like to acknowledge the work of the initial development team lead by Heather Jeffery in her role as Co-Chair of the ANZSA Clinical Practice and Education Committee at that time. We also acknowledge the support of the Mater Foundation, Brisbane for providing funds to enable piloting of this program. Other members of this development team were: Janet Vaughan, Jane Hirst, Ros Richardson, Susan Arbuckle, Adrienne Gordon, Vicki Flenady and Jonathan Morris. ANZSA continued to develop this workshop while members of the original development team developed the program into the Perinatal Loss Workshop with support from the Stillbirth Foundation Australia. In 2012, the content of the two workshops were integrated into the current version of the IMPROVE Program.

A national steering committee has been established to oversee the content and dissemination of the IMPROVE Program as part of the ANZSA Clinical Practice and Education Committee which is now chaired by Alison Kent, Canberra Hospital, ACT in collaboration with the PSANZ Perinatal Mortality Group (Chaired by Vicki Flenady). The ANZSA CP&E committee reports to the ANZSA Board which is chaired by Adrian Charles.



2.0 THE EVALUATION OF IMPROVE

This evaluation of the IMPROVE program was funded by SIDS and Kids. The Mater Medical Research Institute, Brisbane (which houses the ANZSA and the PSANZ PMG secretariats) was commissioned by ANZSA to undertake the evaluation. This report provides a summary activity. This report provides a summary of the evaluation framework and the IMPROVE activity over the evaluation time period. Results of the full evaluation will be available as a peer reviewed published in the near future.

3.0 IMPROVE WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Providing education for health care professionals on how to use the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand's (PSANZ) Clinical Practice Guideline for Perinatal Mortality is crucial to ensuring mothers and families receive the best care in the hospital setting. The Australian and New Zealand Stillbirth Alliance (ANZSA) in collaboration with the PSANZ Perinatal Mortality Group developed an educational program for maternity health care professionals: Improving Perinatal Mortality Review and Outcomes Via Education (IMPROVE). The IMPROVE workshop utilises the Structured, Clinical, Objective, Referenced, Problem-orientated, Integrated and Organised (SCORPIO) educational model designed for skills training. This involves small groups of learners rotating around six interactive learning stations that are each facilitated by an experienced educator. The principle of incorporating best evidence content and using best evidence teaching methods is fundamental to the course design. IMPROVE involves: 1) a short introductory lecture; 2) six learning stations; and, 3) formative assessment.

Table 1: IMPROVE content:

Activity

Introduction and overview

Station 1: Communicating with parents about perinatal autopsy

Station 2: Autopsy and placental examination

Station 3: Investigation of perinatal deaths

Station 4: Examination of babies who die in the perinatal period

Station 5: Audit and classification of perinatal deaths

Station 6: Psychological and social aspects of perinatal bereavement

Formative assessment

4.0 Participants

1,177 participants attended 38 IMPROVE workshops between June 2010 and December 2012 in Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory, and Tasmania as described in Table 2. 975 (82.8%) participants provided data for this evaluation: 195 doctors, 599 midwives, 57 nurses, 74 other healthcare professionals, and 50 participants who didn't specify their profession.



5.0 Measures

Knowledge and confidence

A 21-item questionnaire was administered before and after the IMPROVE workshop to assess knowledge and confidence relating to the objectives of the six stations. These items were rated on a 5-point Likert scale (1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree).

Satisfaction

A further questionnaire was administered at the completion of the IMPROVE workshop. Seven items, using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Poor, 3 = Average, and 5=Excellent), were used to assess the participants' satisfaction with IMPROVE, with open-ended questions allowing participants to provide more in-depth feedback about the workshop.

6.0 Procedure

Participants were rated as knowledgeable and confident for each station if they agreed or strongly agreed with each item for that station. The proportion of participants who were confident or knowledgeable in clinical knowledge of perinatal mortality was calculated as those agreeing or strongly agreeing with at least 90% of all items in the questionnaire.

Participants were categorised as satisfied in that domain if they scored a 4 or 5 for that item. Free text responses were transcribed and mapped as word trees where the size of the font reflects the number of times that word appeared in the responses.

7.0 Summary

1,177 participants attended an IMPROVE workshop between June 2010 and December 2012 across Australia. The evaluation indicated that IMPROVE has been met with a high level of satisfaction from maternity health care professionals.

The findings of the evaluation will be reported in the near future as a peer reviewed publication. ANZSA welcomes continued collaboration with SIDS and Kids to make this workshop widely available. To ensure optimal uptake, an e-Learning tool for the IMPROVE program is required.

8.0 Acknowledgements

We thank SIDS and Kids National for their support of this evaluation of the IMPROVE Program.



We also thank the IMPROVE educators for their time and expertise in delivering the program and the participants for contributing to this evaluation.

