

Maternal Admissions at Central Delivery Suite in Mater Dei Hospital

Background Central Delivery Suite is a specialised ward in Mater Dei Hospital (MDH) dedicated for intra-partum care. It consists of nine delivery rooms, an admission room, an operating theatre and a neonatal resuscitation room. Currently, all pregnant mothers of 22 weeks gestation and above are reviewed in this ward.

Aims To assess the management of bed space at Central Delivery Suite in the absence of a maternity unit triage room.

Methodology All Central Delivery Suite admissions, over a 4 week period, were logged using the labour ward admission book. Data collected included demographic data, reasons for (planned as well as acute presentations), whether delivery was achieved or not and whether patient was admitted or not. Reasons for acute presentations between the admitted and non-admitted population were compared.

Elaine Camilleri, Sharona Falzon, Mandy Collict

Reasons for acute presentations in the <u>admitted population</u> (number of times presenting complaint was documented)	Reasons for acute presentations in the <u>not admitted population</u> (number of times presenting complaint was documented)
contractions - 100	contractions - 31
decreased fetal movements - 12	decreased fetal movements - 37
bleeding pv - 10	bleeding pv - 6
high blood pressure - 5	high blood pressure - 2
?SROM - 72	?SROM - 27
following MVAs - 0	following MVAs - 5
itching - 0	itching - 4
vomiting and/or diarrhoea - 4	vomiting and/or diarrhoea - 3
abdominal pain - 17	abdominal pain - 20
show - 3	show - 5
CTG monitoring - 3	CTG monitoring - 6
Others – 6*	Others - 13*

Table 1: Comparison of reasons of acute presentations between the admitted and non-admitted population in the 4 week study period.

Results Out of 488 patients, **122 patients (25%)** had an elective LSCS or IOL. **366 patients (75%)** presented to the labour ward with an acute complaint. Of these, **224 patients (61.2%) were admitted** and **142 patients (38.8%)** were discharged after review. Out of the 224 patients that were admitted, **171 patients (76.3%)** delivered during that admission and **53 patients (23.7%)** did not deliver.

Conclusion This audit showed that 53.3% of women who had an unplanned presentation to Central Delivery Suite did not need to occupy a bed in the labour ward and could have been assessed in a maternity assessment unit. This means better management and utilisation of beds and resources.

Recommendations

- a maternity unit triage room adjacent to the labour ward in MDH.
- A system should be in place to properly categorise emergencies such as the Canadian Triage and Acuity Scoring System (CATS) for the initial assessment and triaging of patients