

Day Assessment Unit (DAU):An important link between antenatal clinics and community

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Objective

- ❖ Ensure DAU is a safe and effective service outside antenatal clinics, and analyse future improvement in service provision.
- ❖ Determine the frequency of attendees to this facility and monitor and reduce waiting times for scans and obstetric reviews.
- ❖ Ensure an appropriate referral pathway whilst monitoring any inappropriate referrals.
- ❖ Assess patient satisfaction and understanding of their scan reviews and/or management plans.

Design

- ❖ Retrospective data was collected over 6 weeks for patients attending DAU and feedback forms were analysed.

Methods

- ❖ All patients attending DAU over 6 weeks were included in the study. 50 feedback forms were collected. The data was populated on two separate Microsoft Excel sheets:
- ❖ 1) DAU attendance
- ❖ 2) Patient feedback survey
- ❖ Outcomes measured were: Frequency and appropriateness of referrals to DAU; patients' waiting times for scanning and doctor's review; patients' understanding of management plan and overall patients' experience and satisfaction score.

Result

- ❖ Out of the total 540 attendees, 75% attended for scans, 13% for CTG, 3% for PET screening, 4% for obstetric cholestasis screening, 3% for follow-up PROM and 2% for other reasons. Among the scans, 42%: abnormal fundal height measurements, 19%: reduced fetal movement pathways, 19%: SGA < 10th centile, 8%: tailing growth, 3%: LGA, 3%: static growth and 5%: miscellaneous reasons. Majority of scan referrals i.e., 47%: community midwifery, 20%: doctors, 15%: DAU follow up scans, 14%: triage, 2%: ANC and 2%: Antenatal Ward. All referrals were appropriate during the study period.
- ❖ Overall patient satisfaction was excellent 76%, very good 22% and good 2%. 84% of attendees had waiting times of less than 15 minutes for Scan/CTG/blood test review; 67% had doctor's review within 15mins and 24% within half an hour. Understanding of scan reviews and management was reported as very clear for 80% and clear for 18%.

Conclusion

Day assessment unit provides an efficient service outside the community setting and clinics allowing monitoring of high-risk pregnancies and reducing number of inpatient admissions. It acts as an advisory service for women and community staff and provides continuity of care. To further enhance service provision, the development of a DAU guideline was recommended to ensure uniformity of care. In addition, a DAU email address was introduced for better communication of high-risk patients. A re-audit was advised in 6 months time.