

CIRCULAR

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MIDWIVES DATA COLLECTION

MODIFICATIONS TO BE INTRODUCED FROM 1 JANUARY 1998

Data collection and reporting arrangements from all hospitals for the NSW Midwives Data Collection will require modification from 1 January 1998.

Modifications to the data items are required for compliance with the National Perinatal Minimum Data Set and to generate the Royal Australasian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist clinical indicators for obstetrics. Some data items which may be obtained from other sources or which have proven to be of little value have been excluded.

All births from 1 January 1998 must be in the new format.

All hospitals have been issued with manuals which include data definitions and instructions.

A sample of the standard form designed to incorporate the modified data items is attached. The new form is available from the Government Printing Service (GPS) and may be obtained from the GPS, Fast Forms Division, fax (02) 9743 8603, phone (02) 9743 8777. The GPS does not hold a full-year's supply so hospitals are requested to order no more than three months supply in their initial order so as to avoid the problems of short supply for other hospitals at the start of the year.

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It is not necessary for hospitals using OBSTETS or other computerised systems to use the standard for hard-copy medical records purposes, but the data items and categories included on the new form are expected to be incorporated into the computer systems and able to be extracted to the Department's specification for the Midwives Data Collection. Computer companies which maintain electronic Midwives Data Collection systems have been provided with specifications covering these changes and have been requested to ensure that the amended systems will be available for use from 1 January 1998.

It is imperative that Obstetric, Neonatal and Medical Records related personnel receive copies of this circular.

Michael Reid
Director-General