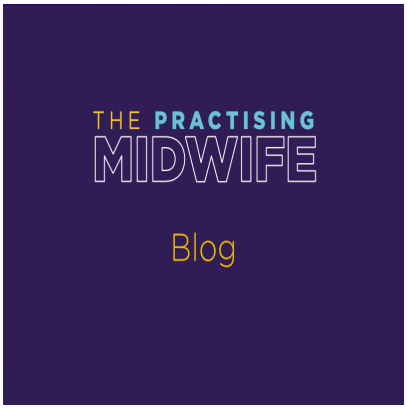


Description

The Quality Maternal and Newborn Care Research Alliance

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Summary

This blog is about the work of the Quality Maternal and Newborn Care Research Alliance and part of our efforts is to promote and encourage midwives to connect and collaborate with this global alliance of midwives, physicians, nurses, academics, researchers, policymakers and service users.

Introduction

In 2014, a series of articles in the Lancet midwifery series concluded that evidence-informed care that benefits women and babies is well understood but is yet to be widely experienced. To address this deficiency, expert opinion, meta-synthesis, reviews of women's views and experiences, effective practices, work of professionals and others providing midwifery care, was used to develop a framework on quality newborn and maternal care by Renfrew, et al., (2014). This integrated care framework of five core components emphasises the need for skilled midwifery care for all, the use of preventative approaches and access to emergency care where needed.

While many midwives may have read about or know of the framework, what is perhaps less well known and understood is the work of the Quality Maternal and Newborn Care Research Alliance to progress quality maternal and newborn care. This is informed by three research priorities that were identified from the evidence presented in the 2014 Lancet Series on Midwifery, and a research prioritisation study conducted with the World Health Organization



Briefly the priorities are to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of midwifery care as defined by the QMNC framework and the contribution of its components, when compared with other models of care across various settings.
- Identify and describe aspects of care that optimise, and those that disturb, the biological/physiological processes for healthy childbearing women and foetus/newborn infants and for those who experience complications.
- Determine which indicators, measures, and benchmarks are most valuable in assessing quality maternal and newborn care across settings, including the views of women; and develop new ones to address identified gaps.

Discussions

Currently the alliance has 939 members and is seeking to increase its membership by promoting its work at midwifery conferences across the globe; and on its online platform. Membership is free. Just follow instructions on the QMNC online site.

Joining the QMNC research alliance offers all midwives the opportunity to:

- Understand quality maternal and newborn care as defined in the Lancet Series.
- Participate in promoting and supporting the work of the alliance.
- Attend presentations on midwifery research and practice (Calabash Cafes), and obtain information and updates on conferences and learning portals.
- Connect and collaborate with world-leading midwifery practitioners, academics, researchers, clinicians and policymakers.
- Participate in one or across all three QMNC research priority working groups, other related research work groups or set up a group on research that interests you.
- Participate in the alliance's identified projects underpinned by its research priorities.

I joined the QMNC in 2020 and initially familiarised myself with the work of the alliance by participating in its general discussion group. The QMNC's strategic plan will help you understand its vision and goals.



I currently work as a fellow on one of the QMNC's research projects which involves:

1. Development of a QMNC Framework index for service user assessment of maternity services.
2. Development of a tool registry of existing metrics for use by researchers.
3. A scoping review exploring how epistemic injustice in sexual, reproductive, maternal and newborn care research is produced, upheld and perpetuated.
4. Writing Mentorship Group to support emerging scholars (Global majority and Global South) with their writing; create an emerging scholars column and social media campaign to enhance exposure through the journal, BIRTH: Issues in Perinatal Care.
5. Ten Year Anniversary Project to explore the influences and impact of the QMNC Framework since its publication.
6. Community-Led Metrics Commentary that summarises practices to create community-led metrics to inform the QMNC's priority related research.

I am working with a project team in the second project to develop a tool registry. Much of the work undertaken by QMNC members is voluntary, but I get a stipend for the work I do as a fellow. It is a two-year project and involves identifying tools that can be used by midwives and others in research, underpinned by one of the QMNC's three priorities. This work has helped me understand my own research to develop and test a tool to measure physiological childbirth practices. I hope to eventually include this tool in the registry.

Conclusion

As the QMNC alliance celebrates its 10th anniversary, I want to encourage all midwives to access, explore and participate in its work. There is strength in numbers especially when groups share their knowledge and skills. Let us work beyond our borders to promote midwifery research and practice; and be a part of a movement that seeks to understand and promote equitable and quality maternal and newborn care for all.

Category

1. All4Maternity Blog

Tags

1. evidence based care

Date Created
25th June 2024