

Te mate pēpi | Perinatal mortality

Perinatal mortality appendix: Update on perinatal mortality recommendations

<p>11. Maternity and primary care providers need to be aware of the increasing risk of perinatal mortality for mothers under 20 years of age in New Zealand. Inequity in perinatal mortality for babies born to mothers under 20 years of age needs to be actively addressed. The PMMRC recommends the Ministry of Health and DHBs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. develop, in consultation with young mothers, acceptable and safe methods for mothers under 20 years of age to access and engage with care in order to achieve equitable health outcomes <p>identify and adequately resource evidence-based solutions to address risks for mothers under 20 years of age, paying attention to smoking cessation, screening and treatment for infections, screening for fetal growth restriction, and providing adequate information about the causes and symptoms of preterm labour</p> <p>consider how they can support LMCs caring for mothers aged under 20 years.</p>	<p>DHBs – Through the MQSP, every DHB has been asked to undertake and report on improving care for mothers under 20 years of age in the 2018/19 work programme.</p> <p>The majority of DHBs have noted antenatal (and postnatal) education for youth, tailored to youth, as well as wrap-around services for the young woman. These services are often provided at a place that is familiar to them. For example, in Hutt Valley DHB, antenatal education is provided at Vibe, a health and support youth service. In Lakes DHB, LMCs work in partnership with Rotovegas Youth Health and Anamata Cafe to provide integrated support for the woman. The incidence of unbooked or late-booking young women has decreased since these strategies have been implemented. Nelson Marlborough DHB has provided additional support to LMCs caring for pregnant women under 20 and wrap-around services to support these women. Services include mental health support care, alcohol and other drug addiction services, Māori health services, Well Child Tamariki Ora service providers, Family Start and Oranga Tamariki.</p> <p>GAP (Growth Assessment Protocol) is a tool often used to screen for fetal growth restriction.</p> <p>In Auckland DHB, the number of young mothers under 20 years old continues to slowly decrease (from 431 in 2000 to 137 in 2018, which is the lowest it has been).</p>
<p>12. The PMMRC recommends that DHBs with rates of perinatal related mortality significantly higher than the national rate review, or continue to review, the higher rate of mortality in their area and identify areas for improvement.</p>	<p>Wairarapa DHB continues to hold PMMRC meetings annually or biannually depending on how many deaths there have been. The pathologist attends to present the findings of post-mortems that are undertaken. Stillbirths and neonatal deaths that occur in the DHB follow the process of reporting to the PMMRC and are reviewed locally.</p>