Effectiveness of facility-based audits to improve the responsiveness of West African district hospitals to obstetric emergencies: a three-country cluster randomised controlled trial

From 2007-01-01 to 2011-12-31

Project details

| Total cost: | EUR 2 999 979 |
| EU contribution: | EUR 2 999 979 |
| Coordinated in: | United Kingdom |

Objective

Identifying and implementing sustainable interventions to improve the quality of hospital care in sub-Saharan Africa is challenging. Maternal and perinatal mortality ratios stagnate at a high level; improving hospitals' responsiveness to obstetric emergencies is thought to be an important potential contribution to decrease them. WHO will soon launch an initiative to promote a range of quality assurance strategies, including several types of facility-based audits. While audits certainly hold promise, the evidence for their effectiveness is mixed.

All randomised controlled trials of audits have been undertaken in industrialised countries, but the effectiveness of health services intervention is likely to vary according to context. We propose a cluster-randomised controlled trial in West African district hospitals to assess the effectiveness of two types of facility-based audits, criterion-based clinical audits (CBCA) and patient-centred case reviews (PCCR). WHO guidelines on the management of obstetric complications and enhanced routine documentation including the WHO pantographs will be introduced in all 36 participating hospitals, while CBCA or PCCR will be set up in 12 hospitals each.

The primary outcome variable is a responsiveness score, designed to measure technical and organisational management of obstetric emergencies. Additional outcome measures include the delay between decision and start of emergency caesarean section, and hospital based perinatal mortality. A concurrent anthropological study will improve our understanding of how audits work or why they fail and identify barriers and facilitators for their successful integration into routine practice. An economic evaluation will assess the cost-effectiveness of both interventions. We are confident that the trial results will not only provide essential data for policy making in safe motherhood, but will provide lessons for quality assurance in district hospital in developing countries in general.
Coordinator
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Keppel Street
LONDON
United Kingdom
See on map

Administrative contact: Matthias BORCHERT
Tel.: +44-2079272360
Fax: +44-2076374314
E-mail

Participants

EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
1 Moldovei St
TARGU-MURES
Romania

Administrative contact: Lucian PUSCASIU
Tel.: +40-265255532
Fax: +40-265255370
E-mail

CENTRE DE RECHERCHE EN REPRODUCTION HUMAINE ET EN DEMOGRAPHIE
Av Jean Paul ii, rue 232
01 BP 1822 COTONOU
Benin

Administrative contact: Sourou Beatrice GOUFODJI
Tel.: +229-2130557922990035922
E-mail

MINISTERE DE LA SANTE PUBLIQUE
623 NIAMEY
Niger
See on map

Administrative contact: Lucien DJANGNIKPO
Tel.: +227-205107292721510334
Fax: +227-21510118227991738
E-mail
Centre Muraz
2054 Av Mamadou Konate
390 BOBO-DIOULASSO
Burkina Faso
See on map

**Administrative contact:** Nicolas MEDA
Tel.: +226-20972630
Fax: +226-20970177
E-mail

Prince Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine
Nationalestraat 155
ANTWERPEN
Belgium
See on map

**Administrative contact:** Vincent DE BROUWERE
Tel.: +32-32476286
Fax: +32-2476258
E-mail

### Subjects

Coordination and Cooperation - Medicine and Health - Policies

**Last updated on** 2011-03-21

**Retrieved on** 2019-06-17

**Permalink:** https://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/81330_en.html

© European Union, 2019