

Perinatal Education Programme

DH Greenfield

Neonatal Medicine, University of
Cape Town

Managing the Programme

- Essentials are:
 - Distance education
 - Self directed learning

Designed to be studied by an individual

However, it works best when a small group study the programme together

Group learning:

- promotes discussion of problems

- mutual support and encouragement

A group will need a coordinator / facilitator

Role of the coordinator

Ensure that the education material is obtained

Arrange the meetings

Arrange for demonstration (if necessary) and practice of skills

Arrange for the end of course test

Motivate the participants

Who should be the coordinator?

- Often a manager in the maternity department
- Often one of the participants
- Does not necessarily have to be a health worker

Studying the Programme

- Obtain the study material
- Arrange to meet, if there are several students
- Do the pretest for the first unit
- Study the content of the first unit

Studying a unit usually takes about 2 - 3 weeks

Studying the Programme

- Meet together after completion of the study of the unit (date must be set)
- Discuss the content of the unit studied – especially raise questions and problems
- Work through / practice any skills related to the unit
- Do the unit post – test, and discuss wrong answers
- Do the pretest for the next unit
- Ideally meeting should be “on duty time”

On completion of the Manual

- Coordinator arranges to obtain the test papers
- Students write the end of course test (multiple choice questions)
- Takes about 1 hour
- Pass mark 80%
- Certificate issued to those who pass

What about the material in the programme?

- Designed to deal with the problems in perinatal care in Southern Africa
- However, these problems are essentially the same as will occur anywhere
- Teaches knowledge and skills
- This needs to be carried over into practice

Who should study the Programme?

- All health workers who work in perinatal care
- Doctors and midwives need to work from the same knowledge and skills base
- Need to believe that the content of the manuals is true!!
- Role in undergraduate education of doctors and nurses

What do learners think about it?

“... I am so happy that I now know that when I deliver a baby, that baby will not die.”