

Implementing the Gap Protocol at the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

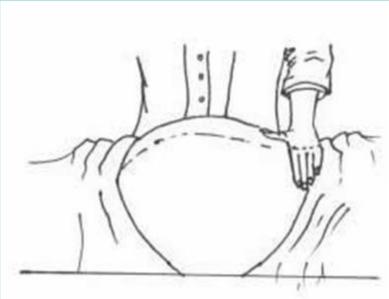


Royal Free London **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Background

Fetal growth restriction (FGR) is a significant cause of stillbirth, neonatal death and perinatal morbidity. The introduction of the GAP/GROWTH Assessment Protocol (GAP) has been shown to significantly increase the detection of FGR and prevention of stillbirth (Gardosi-et-al 2013).

Implementing the GAP assessment protocol poses significant challenges for maternity services and has implications for all component parts of the service and professionals involved.



I was a near miss until Lorraine found me

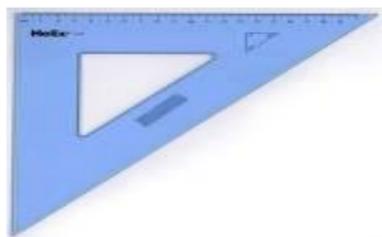
Methodology:

Dedicated Project lead

Implementation Plan

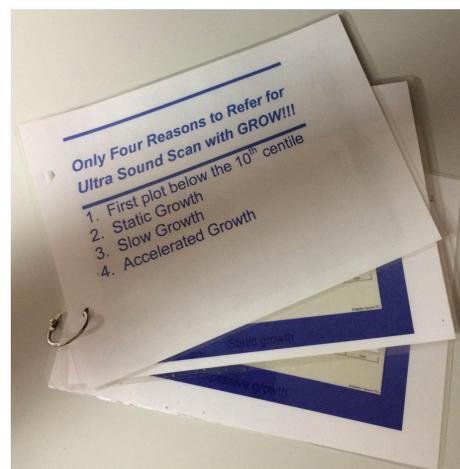
Key priorities:-

1. Multi-disciplinary project group.
2. Development and implementation of the evidence based protocols and guidelines.
3. Training and accreditation of all staff involved in all clinical cares as well as our GP practice.
4. Reminders in clinical areas
 - a) Gap/Grow information board
 - b) Information laminates for staff
 - c) When to refer to scan
 - d) When not to refer to scan
 - e) Adhoc teaching sessions in the clinical area
5. Positive reinforcement strategies
 - a) Letters to staff
 - b) Feedback following issues identified in practice
 - c) Laminates in clinical areas
6. Audit and benchmarking current practice
7. On-going challenges



Challenges

- Ultrasound scanning capacity and resources
- Obstetric sign up and on going commitment
- When to Generate charts in light of early booking
- Completing charts correctly and relevant referral pathways
- GP engagement when providing antenatal care
- Sustaining the implementation without a project lead

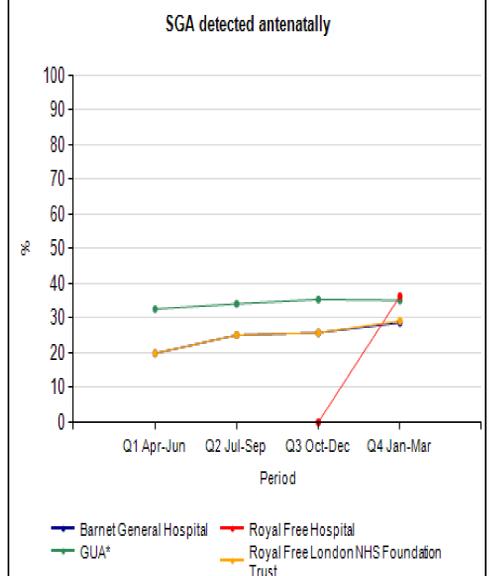


Results



Our most recent February 2016 has shown that **91.5%** of all practitioners plotted SFH measurements on the customised growth chart with **87.8%** of these being correctly plotted.

Detection rates and management of growth restriction has significantly improved **from a 7% detection rate to around 28% detection rate.**



Useful resources

NHS London Strategic Clinical network(July 2015)
Reducing stillbirth through increased detection of fetal growth restriction Toolkit
<https://www.perinatal.org.uk/FetalGrowth/GAP/GAP.aspx>