

Multidisciplinary Collaborative Primary Maternity Care Project (MCP²)

In May 2004, Health Canada funded the Multidisciplinary Collaborative Primary Maternity Care Project through the Primary Health Care Transition Funds Program. The project was proposed to overcome health human resource shortages and improve access to primary maternity care.

Partner organizations in the project include:

- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (Canada),
- Canadian Association of Midwives,
- Canadian Nurses Association,
- College of Family Physicians of Canada,
- Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, and
- Society of Rural Physicians of Canada.

The overarching goal of this project was to reduce barriers and facilitate the implementation of national multidisciplinary collaborative primary maternity care strategies as a means of increasing the availability and quality of maternity services for all Canadian women.

The legacy objective for the project was the development of a National Primary Maternity Care Committee. Representatives from each of the partner associations, provincial government representatives and consumers were involved in completing the objectives of the project.

The project had seven main objectives, shown on the project overview diagram, including:

- Guidelines for Model Development: After investigating possible collaborative models in 5 European countries and Australia, the project members, lead by Dr. Malcolm Anderson, sought input from key stakeholders across Canada and developed a framework for multidisciplinary collaborative models of care. The framework is designed with flexibility to facilitate the development of woman centred models that are based on the resources available in the local community to meet the assessed needs of each unique community. Knowledge transfer modules were developed to assist with implementation of collaborative models.
- Harmonization of standards: The project recommendations encourage governments and other key stakeholders to commit to the continuing development of a coordinated, pan-Canadian approach to multidisciplinary collaborative maternal/newborn care services that respect the diversities and realities of each province or territory. It also recommends continuing advocacy at a pan-Canadian level for the resources to support the appropriate delivery of multidisciplinary collaborative maternal/newborn care services in each jurisdiction and seeking consensus for key strategies that will establish, retain or expand multidisciplinary collaborative maternity services for mothers and newborns in Canada.
- Change Practice Patterns: Knowledge transfer modules were developed to assist with implementation of multidisciplinary collaborative models. As these models are developed there will be a change in current practice patterns and care providers, mothers and newborns and their families will benefit from the impact of this type of model.
- Facilitate Information Sharing: Numerous presentations on the project have been given to government representatives, civil servants, professional groups and consumer organizations. Each partner organization has a professional journal or newsletter that carried a 4 page insert explaining the project, highlighting two current multidisciplinary collaborative maternity care teams and documenting the benefits of multidisciplinary collaborative practice.
- Promote Benefits of Multidisciplinary Collaborative Maternity Care: An advertisement was placed in the April 2006 issue of *Chatelaine* to increase the awareness of the public on multidisciplinary collaborative practice. Consumers, provincial governments and professional groups currently providing intrapartum care were represented on the National Primary Maternity Care Committee and worked together to develop the documents for this project.
- Evaluation: To evaluate the impact of the project, Dr. Barbara Davies and Dr. Jennifer Medves lead an assessment of the impact of the project on the knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of health care providers about collaboration. Interviews with key stakeholders, focus groups at national meetings and web based surveys of hundreds of health care providers were used to measure the impact of the project. Of significance, more than 70% of respondents had heard of the project, and more than 87% agreed that there should be a national body responsible for planning maternity services in Canada.

Copies of all reports, advertisements, journal inserts and other project documents are posted on the website at www.mcp2.ca. We thank you for your interest and participation in this valuable project.

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