

Mother Knows Best: Developing a Consumer-Led Evidence-Informed Research Agenda for Maternity Care

Cheyne et al. (2013)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

maternity care

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - United Kingdom

Why was it conducted at all?

The principles of evidence-based practice and involvement of consumers in health care are well established. However, consumers are rarely involved in decisions about what evidence is actually required and this may result in a mismatch between research undertaken and issues of importance to those who use the health services. This may be particularly evident in maternity care where disease focused research funding priorities may not address aspects of care which are important to the majority of women.

What was the objective?

to work with groups of mothers to develop questions for research that reflect issues of importance to them and to make these questions widely available to facilitate the development of women-centered maternity care research

What was the outcome?

a list of 10 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

group discussion

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: 12 group discussions: participants were asked to identify areas of interest and potentially important topics and questions for research, participants encouraged to raise topics and questions from their own experiences as well as from the experiences of others known to them. Step 2: development of an evidence-informed discussion document: rapid literature review conducted and a scoping work to develop a discussion document on existing evidence and fed back to group. Step 3: group discussion: to achieve consensus, follow-up group discussion to discuss topic areas in the light of literature reviews and to agree on a set of research questions, at the end of discussion participants were asked to vote for their priorities with 6 self-adhesive stickers with different colors and vote values totaling 12 points. Step 4: summary of the final list of topics and questions was circulated for comment to a range of service-user focused groups

Which stakeholders took part?

Mothers of pre-nursery age children (birth to three years). 82 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

Within Scotland maternity care is provided by 14 regional health boards that plan and deliver services within their geographical area. Four health board areas were selected to include a diverse range of geographical, social and organizational settings. Within each of these areas three pre-existing local groups, focused on mothers of pre-nursery age children (birth to three years), were selected giving a total sample of 12 groups with between eight and 20 members in each.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.