

OBSTETRIC DATA DEFINITIONS CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The reVITALize Conference took place August 2-3, 2012 in Arlington, Virginia and brought together over 80 leaders in women's health, public health, and vital statistics. The Conference followed an iterative process that helped to facilitate ongoing communication between stakeholders both leading up to and during the conference proceedings.

Pre-Conference Preparation

Various measures were identified by reVITALize conference co-chairs, Dr. Elliott Main, MD, FACOG and Dr. M. Kathryn Menard, MD, MPH, FACOG as the initial source for the data elements to be considered for discussion at the conference. These measures included the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)/National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)/Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI); Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) - Birth Trauma Injury; California Maternity Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC) - Healthy Term Newborn; The Joint Commission (TJC) Perinatal Care Core Set. Following identification, the measures were then reviewed and their respective data elements were parsed with the goal of identifying the data elements occurring most frequently.

Next, the measures, along with the parsed data elements were entered into an electronic survey for review and input by conference stakeholders. Measures were listed. Data elements were categorized into the following categories: Maternal, Labor & Delivery, and Gestational Age. In this survey stakeholders were asked to review the measures and data elements and indicate any additional sources or data elements in need of review. Following the close of the first round survey, the data elements and measures submitted for inclusion were reviewed by the conference co-chairs and incorporated accordingly.

After the incorporation of the additional elements and sources, a second round survey was provided to conference stakeholders. In this survey, stakeholders were asked to rank the data elements in order of importance for coverage at the reVITALize Conference. The categories were expanded to include: Delivery, Gestational Age and Term, Labor, Maternal Indicators Historical Diagnoses, and Maternal Indicators Current Co-Morbidities and Complications. Ranking was conducted independently between the categories.

At the conclusion of the second round survey, the results were compiled and the data elements were listed in order of importance from highest to lowest within each of the five data element categories. These results helped to form the basis for discussion at the reVITALize Conference by providing guidance to each of the workgroups assigned one of the five data element categories listed above.

Conference Proceedings

Like the preconference proceedings, the two day conference also followed an iterative process. Prior to the start of the conference each attendee was assigned to a workgroup. Each workgroup was comprised of approximately 15 attendees and two (2) workgroup leaders who were preselected prior to the conference and trained by the reVITALize co-chairs. The two workgroup leaders had different but parallel roles; one was the clinical lead and one was the operational lead. The goal of the dual approach was to produce definitions that were both clinically accurate and operationally functional. In addition to providing guidance, the overall role of the workgroup leaders was to facilitate discussion between all workgroup members and ensure that each member had an opportunity to express his or her views as definitions of the assigned terms were revised.



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To further aid in the definition revision and/or development process, at the start of the conference each attendee was provided a spreadsheet containing the terms for discussion (82 total) broken out by category and associated with existing definitions from ICD-9, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Gabbe Obstetrics, Williams Obstetrics, and other relevant sources. Current issues with each term were also provided as a starting point for discussion.

Each workgroup was assigned the revision and/or development of definitions for approximately 15 terms within their respective workgroup category. Group members were permitted to use all available resources to discuss and formulate the revised definition for presentation in the large group sessions.

Following the workgroup breakout sessions, the newly refined definitions were presented in the large group by the workgroup leads for review, input, and applicable modifications (if necessary). If the definition did not require any modifications to gain large group approval, it was immediately voted on by all attendees via response tracking technology. However, if the definition prompted further revisions, any suggested changes and/or areas of concern were noted and brought back into the respective workgroup for further review and modification. Following modification, the revised definition was then voted on by the large group. At the conclusion of the conference, at least 85% attendee support was reached on 44 refined data element definitions.

Post-Conference Follow Up

Following the conclusion of the conference, the data element definitions failing to reach 85% attendee support were brought back to their respective workgroups for a period of additional review and revision. This period consisted of a series of conference calls and discussions among workgroup members. Following additional review and revision, 50 refined data element definitions were brought forward for Public Comment.

The Public Comment period began on November 15, 2012 and ended on January 15, 2013, over the course of the 60 days, 625 individuals, representing over 450 different organizations submitted responses. In total, 10,491 responses were received in support or support with modification of the 50 refined data element definitions and nearly 12,000 total responses were submitted.

As the comments were received they were categorized and sent for review by the co-chairs and workgroup leads. Modifications to the definitions were made as deemed necessary and appropriate given the content of the comments. Following the conclusion of the review of the public comment responses, the refined data element definitions were sent for a legal review. Upon conclusion of the legal review, any applicable changes will be made to the definitions and the definitions will go forward for a final approval by reVITALize stakeholders. This final approval will be conducted via a survey and will serve to ensure widespread acceptance.

Educational efforts, publication, and dissemination are expected to begin in mid-2013 to encourage consistent and accurate use.