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University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Developing core recommendations for bereavement care after stillbirth

Stillbirth has a huge global impact with the highest burden in low and middle-income countries. The 2016 Lancet Stillbirth Series called for a 'global consensus on a package of care after a death in pregnancy or childbirth'.

Two expert stakeholder workshops, in association with the International Stillbirth Alliance, and a global survey in April-May 2018 have identified eight evidence-based 'core principles' for stillbirth bereavement care which we intend to form the basis of a global consensus on stillbirth bereavement care which is both feasible and useful.

To complete the consensus process, we would like your final input as a stakeholder who has been involved in either the survey or the workshops. We would be grateful if you could take 5 minutes to complete this short survey presenting the revised core principles.

Thank you once again for your time and contributions to this project,

The Stillbirth Bereavement Consensus Team

Core principles

Please read each principle below, and assign a score between 1 and 9, depending on how important you think the principle is.

* 1. Core principles: please rank each one for importance

	1 - not at all important	2	3	4	5 - important but not critical	6	7	8	9 - critically important
Reduce stigma experienced by bereaved women and their families by increasing awareness of stillbirth within communities.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Provide respectful maternity care to bereaved women, their families and their babies.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Support women and their families to make shared, informed and supported decisions about birth options.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Make every effort to investigate and identify contributory factors, to provide an acceptable explanation to women and their families for the death of their baby.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Acknowledge the depth and variety of normal grief responses associated with stillbirth and offer emotional support in an appropriate environment.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Offer appropriate information and postnatal care to address physical, practical and psychological needs, including a point of contact for ongoing support.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

	1 - not at all important	2	3	4	5 - important but not critical	6	7	8	9 - critically important
Provide information for women and their families about future pregnancy planning and reproductive health at appropriate time points throughout their care and follow up.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Enable the highest quality bereavement care by providing comprehensive and ongoing training and support to all members of the healthcare team.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

* 2. Out of the nine recommendations, please select the three that you feel are most important.

- ☐ Reduce stigma experienced by bereaved women and their families by increasing awareness of stillbirth within communities.
- ☐ Provide respectful maternity care to bereaved women, their families and their babies.
- ☐ Support women and their families to make shared, informed and supported decisions about birth options.
- ☐ Make every effort to investigate and identify contributory factors, to provide an acceptable explanation to women and their families for the death of their baby.
- ☐ Acknowledge the depth and variety of normal grief responses associated with stillbirth and offer emotional support in an appropriate environment.
- ☐ Offer appropriate information and postnatal care to address physical, practical and psychological needs, including a point of contact for ongoing support.
- ☐ Provide information for women and their families about future pregnancy planning and reproductive health at appropriate time points throughout their care and follow up.
- ☐ Enable the highest quality bereavement care by providing comprehensive and ongoing training and support to all members of the healthcare team.

Thank you for your input to the Global Stillbirth Care Consensus

Thank you for participating in this survey, we appreciate your time and input into this important work.

If you would like to share your local stillbirth bereavement guideline with us please email it to globalstillbirthconsensus@gmail.com

If you have any complaint regarding this survey, please send it to research-governance@bristol.ac.uk