The Unsettled Baby: Cross-disciplinary Perspectives

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Ipswich Campus, The University of Queensland

Project overview: “Evidence into Practice: Feasibility and Acceptability of an Integrated Intervention for Irritable Infants Under 3 Months of Age, and their Mothers”

Literature review
Douglas Griffith Review

Key informant interviews
Douglas, Mares, Hill 2011 (AJPC under review)
Conference presentations: PHCRIS 2011, Passage to Motherhood 2011

Education resource
Clinical Review commissioned Douglas and Hill (BMJ under review)
Also funded by PHCRED Fellowship 2010, school-based scholarship Children’s Nutrition Research Centre funded by Bayer Pharmaceutical

Clinic
POSSUMS (Positive Strategies for the Support of Unsettled Babies and their Mothers) opening Spring 2011 UQ Healthcare

Pilot evaluation
NHMRC application with Queensland Centre for Mothers and Babies (under review)
BUPA application with Queensland Centre for Mothers and Babies (unsuccessful)

Key informants by professional category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Health professional grade</th>
<th>Health discipline(s)</th>
<th>Total number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary care practitioner</td>
<td>GPs</td>
<td>General practice, Lactation consultancy, Child health nursing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GP-IBCLCs</td>
<td>Child health nurses</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwives</td>
<td></td>
<td>Midwifery</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Referral practitioners</td>
<td>Allied health professionals</td>
<td>Occupational therapy, Speech Pathology, Paediatric Physiotherapy</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medical specialists (other than GPs)</td>
<td>Paediatrics, Perinatal psychiatry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family therapists and counsellors</td>
<td>Social work, Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
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Key outcomes

Need for:
- Early primary care intervention
- Improved cross-professional collaboration
- Address knowledge deficits
Early Primary Care Intervention

- Prevent adverse outcomes
  - Long-term behavioural problems
  - Child abuse
  - Premature breastfeeding cessation
  - PNAD
- Limit cost

Cross-professional collaboration

- Multi-disciplinary approach
- Shared records
- Inter-professional communication

Knowledge deficits

- Inappropriate medical diagnoses
- Feeding problems
- Perinatal anxiety and depression
- Cue-based care
- Sensorimotor integration

Tensions

- Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease
- Sleep
- Perinatal anxiety and depression
- Discipline-specific focus

Our Recommendations

Development of:
- Education resources for primary care practitioners
- Shared assessment frameworks
- Best practice guidelines
- Strategies to improve cross-professional communication

Publications


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References


