DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY INDICATORS OF LOW RISK LABOR PROVIDED PRIMARILY BY MIDWIVES: BASED ON CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES WITH A MODIFIED DELPHI METHOD

Background In Japan some labour units have started services for low risk labour provided primarily by midwives with the assistance of obstetricians. However, real practices varied with facilities and quality of care has not been sufficiently assured.

Objectives We aimed to develop quality indicators of low-risk labour provided primarily by midwives in Japan.

Methods We systematically searched databases to select related indicators and clinical practice guidelines. Using a modified Delphi method, a multidisciplinary panel including two women who experienced labour and were not health professionals was assembled and held. After the panel members rated the candidates individually, consensus was attained for each indicator.

Results An electronic search retrieved 104 guidelines (2043 key recommendations) from which 32 guidelines (166 key recommendations) were selected. Some recommendations were excluded due to difficulties in measuring and others due to evidence against following certain guidelines. Additionally, 31 existing quality indicators were identified. The panel discussed 25 candidate indicators; 18 indicators were adopted, six indicators were not adopted, one indicator was modified. Four indicators were added later following discussion. Consequently, 23 quality indicators of care were chosen.

Discussion A pilot test of these indicators at multiple facilities should contribute to future development of guideline-based quality indicators.

Implications for Guideline Developers/Users Guideline developers should be more conscious in making recommendations that are potentially used as quality indicators.

EFFECTS OF KOREAN-AGREE SCORING GUIDE ON IMPROVING THE RELIABILITY OF THE SCORES

Background The Korean translated AGREE II instrument has been distributed to Korean medical societies in 2011. But inter-rater disagreement issues still existed. The Korean AGREE II scoring guide was therefore developed to reduce inter-rater differences.

Objectives To examine effects of the Korean AGREE II scoring guide on reduction of the inter-rater differences.

Methods Appraisers were randomly assigned to group A or B. The Korean AGREE II instrument was provided to all participants, but the Korea AGREE II scoring guide was offered to only group A. Total of 14 appraisers participated and each guideline was assessed by 8 appraisers. To evaluate the reliability of the Korean AGREE II scoring guide, correlation of scores among appraisers and domain-specific intra-class correlation (ICC) were calculated.

Results Most scores of two groups were comparable. And scoring guide user group showed higher reliability at all guidelines. It showed higher correlation among appraisers and higher ICC values at almost all domains (from 0.272~0.792 to 0.667~0.888 in CPG A, from 0.273~0.682 to 0.424~0.815 in CPG B).

Discussion Scoring guide reduces the inter-rater disagreement and improves the overall reliability of the Korean-AGREE II instrument.