



Identification of roadblocks to provision of third trimester ultrasound assessment in South Western Sydney: A survey of pregnant women.

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1. Background

The Safer Baby Bundle (SBB) is a national initiative aimed at reducing stillbirth rates by recommending growth ultrasounds (US) for those at increased risk of fetal growth restriction (FGR).

2. Aim

To assess patient accessibility and experience with the current model of third trimester US provision within SWSLHD.

3. Methods

The survey was available to all antenatal patients in their third trimester. Questions included maternal demographic information and behavioural patterns related to pregnancy and obtaining an US.

5. Conclusion

To meet the needs of SWSLHD and the SBB guidelines for US provision, there needs to be greater access to high quality, Medicare funded third trimester US.

4. Results

Demographics

Language other than English: 40% of respondents spoke a language other than English at home. Of these, only 7% had an US appointment made for them.

Income: 60% of respondents reported being in low – middle income category

Ultrasound availability

20% of people were not able to make an US appointment in the time advised by their practitioner. 45% of people had to contact 2 or more facilities to make an appointment.

Cost of US

60% of respondents were bulk billed for their US, however 40% of these actively avoided US facilities that charged.

Of out-of-pocket respondents, 52% are classified as low-middle income earners. 31% of respondents stated paying for their ultrasound made a significant impact to their weekly budget. 68% of respondents stated if they were to need future US, the cost would impact their ability to do so.

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