Collaborating for improved women's health:

The Solomon Islands Standard Treatment Manual for Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Mitchell, Rebecca[a ,b] and Panisi, Leeanne[b]

[a] Cairns Hospital, Queensland, Australia
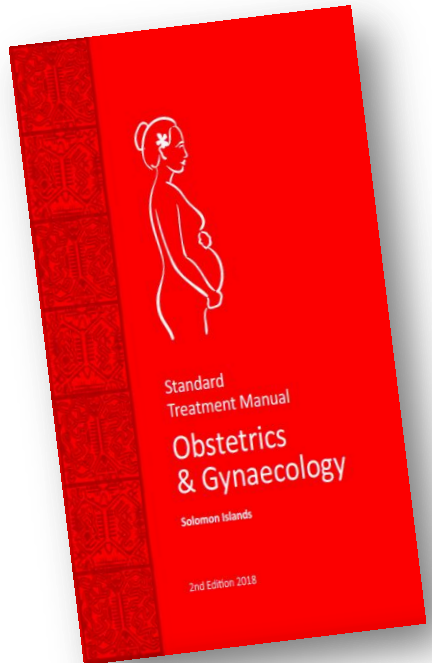[b] National Referral Hospital, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Background

Standard Treatment Manuals (STM) play in important role in promoting consistency and quality of care, especially in low- and middle-income countries. The Solomon Islands (SI) has a long history of STMs in medicine and paediatrics.

The placement of a volunteer Australian Senior Registrar (SR) in O&G provided an opportunity to develop an STM focussed on women's health.
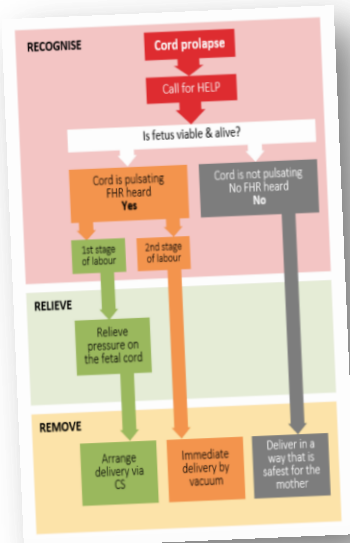
Methods

After confirming the need for an O&G STM, a Working Group was formed. This was Chaired by the Head of Department of the National Referral Hospital (NRH) and included the three other SI O&G specialists, the visiting Australian SR, two local registrars and a senior midwife.

The Papua New Guinean STM was used as a template, with each chapter reviewed and updated by a member of the WG. Relevant Fiji, RANZCOG and WHO guidelines were utilised as resources. The visiting SR compiled the chapters and arranged external review, including provincial health workers, two international O&G specialists and the paediatrics and pharmacy departments. RANZCOG provided financial support.

Results

The O&G STM comprises 200 A6 pages organised into alphabetised chapters. The manual has been endorsed by the Ministry of Health & Medical Services. It will be made available to healthcare workers in all SI provinces using the pharmacy distribution network. An accompanying education program has been developed.

Conclusion

All SI healthcare workers will shortly have access to a pocket-sided quick-reference guide for important O&G topics. The STM is a positive example of Australian and Pacific colleagues collaborating towards improved women's health.

Solomon Islands
Ministry of Health
&
Medical Services