

A survey of Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists members' views of the current clinical guidance statements

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Introduction

RANZCOG has over 80 clinical guidance statements on obstetric and gynaecological (including sexual & reproductive health) and policy topics. The majority are consensus-based statements with few evidence based recommendations. There are many overlapping topics.

In 2021, the College embarked on a process to review these statements to identify priority topics suited to evidence-based statement and guideline development.

Objectives

To report the current use of the clinical statements, identify member's views on the importance of the statements and to seek member perspectives on gaps in the current RANZCOG guidance.

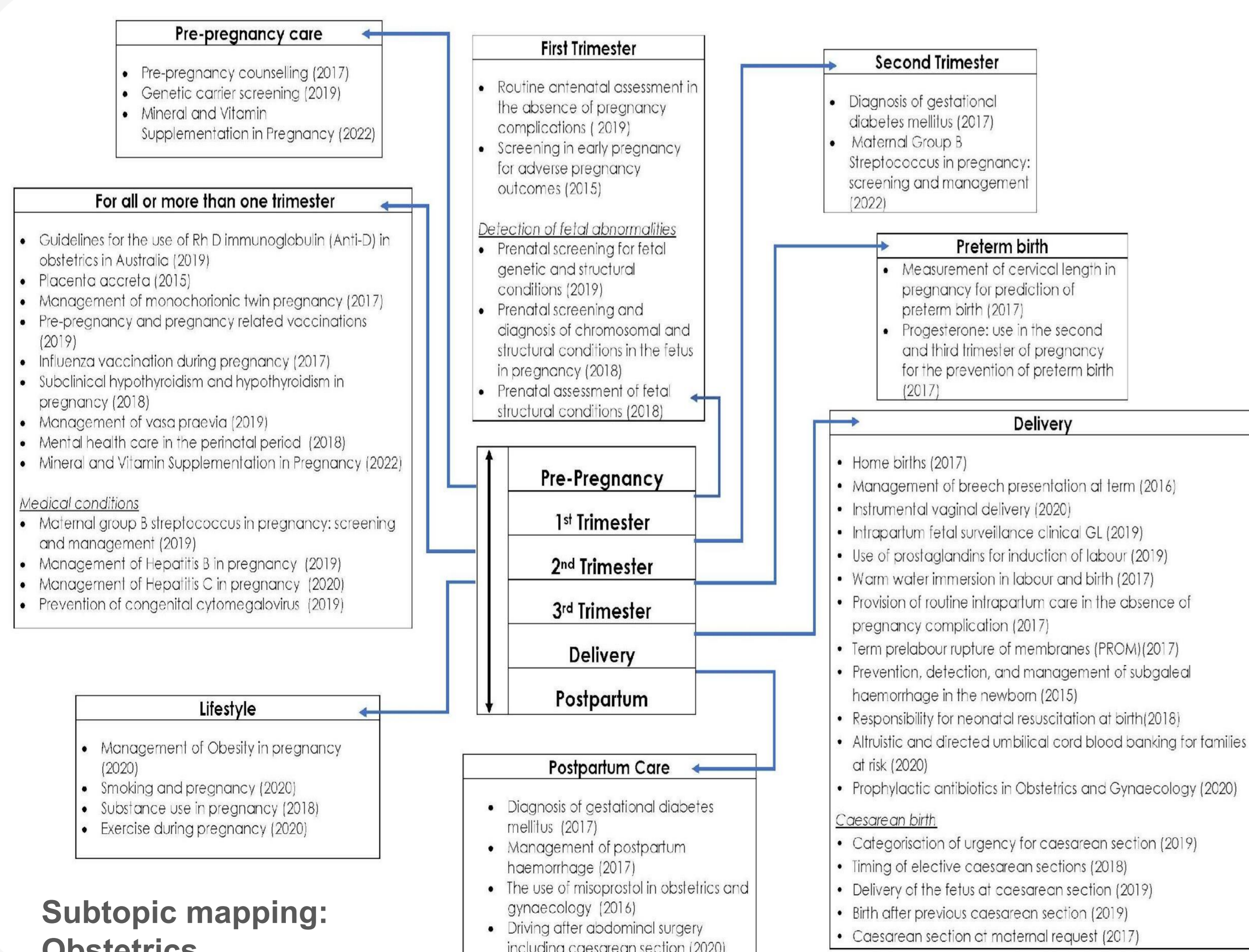
Methodology

A mapping exercise set out the range of statements (subtopics) in obstetrics, gynaecology (including sexual and reproductive health) and policy topics.

An online survey was developed and distributed to all RANZCOG Fellows, GP Diplomates and Trainees. The survey ran from 8th July 2021 for four weeks.

Respondents were provided a link to a participant information sheet that outlined survey objectives, confidentiality, data protection, data management, consent and ethics approval. The survey presented the map of subtopics, and for each subtopic, the survey questions included frequency of use, clinical importance of specific topics in obstetrics and gynaecology and support for amalgamation of the statements.

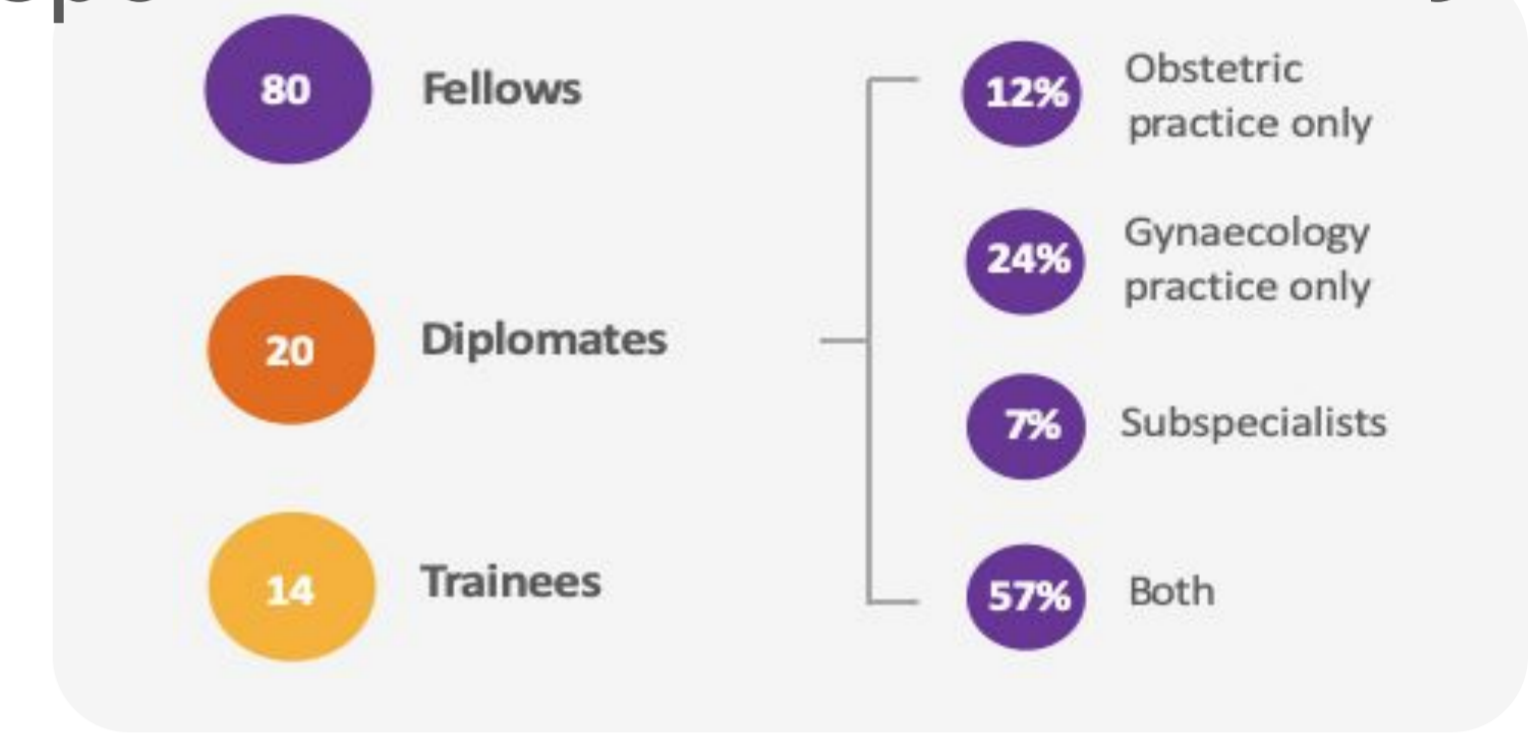
Respondents were also invited to identify new topics



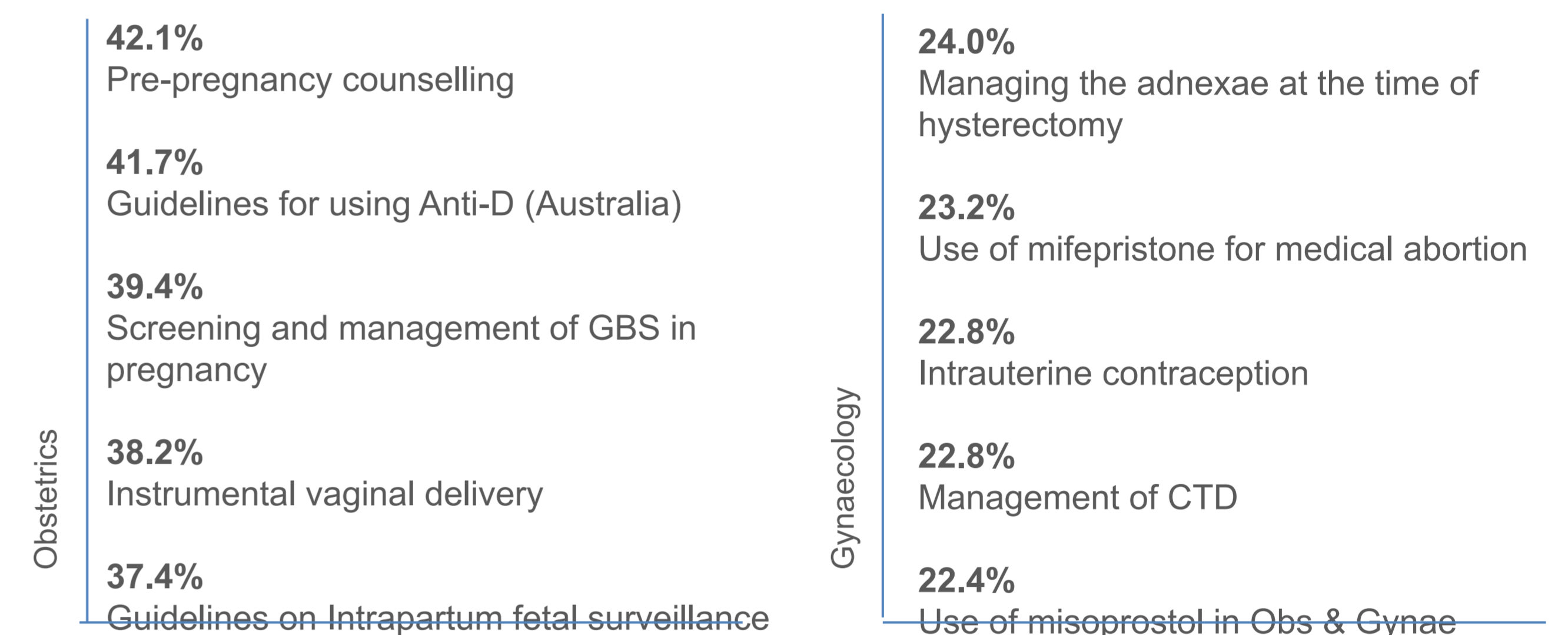
Results

The response rate was 14.6% of 3834 members who viewed the survey invitation (and 30.2% of those 1850 members who opened the invitation).

- 69% of respondents access statements at least monthly.
- The majority of respondents access statements



Response rates: shown by Origin (country); RANZCOG affiliation; specialty practiced.



Frequency of use: Top 5 statements used in the 12 months prior to the survey

Discussion & Conclusion

The majority agreed that the topics covered by the current statements were clinically useful and important, and supported rationalising the current statements by amalgamation where overlap has been identified and developing new guidelines.

The information captured will inform prioritisation of topics and the future strategy of the College's guideline development work

Half of the respondents were interested in being involved in future evidence-based initiatives, by participating in various ways. RANZCOG is committed to involving members in this important work and will provide them with opportunities to work with clinical leaders in developing and implementing statements and guidelines.

RANZCOG members are invited to contact the Research and Policy Team (Prof Cindy Farquhar and Jinty Wilson):

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