

THE PERINATAL INFORMATION SYSTEM II: DEVELOPMENT OF A SOFTWARE PACKAGE FOR PERINATAL CARE

F. Simini, R. Lopez, R. Schwarcz, A.G. Diaz and S.M. Tenzer
C.L.A.P. (PAHO/WHO), P.O. Box 627, Montevideo, URUGUAY
Telex 23023 CLAP UY, Telephone 80 29 29, 80 29 30

The Latin American Centre for Perinatology and Human Development (C.L.A.P. PAHO/WHO) introduced the Simplified Perinatal Clinical Record (SPCR) as an instrument to ease perinatal care.

Perinatal health care can further be assisted by providing statistical data without delay in the very place perinatal care is given. We have designed to this end a low-cost, easy-to-use computing system for data entry, data correction, statistical analysis and presentation of results.

The selected hardware is the family of IBM PC compatible personal computers. The system was designed so as to be used by any member of the health team with very little training. The operation of the system is prompted by explicit messages on the monitor screen. The Spanish, Portuguese and English versions cover the needs of most countries of the region.

All results are given in printed form as neat documents that can easily be filed. There are 13 different types of documents that cover specific areas of perinatal care management as well as general statistical processing. Data entry and the generation of documents can be selected from the following menu:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 0 List of variables | 10 Birthweight/Gest age (selected) |
| 1 Record Entry | 11 Birthweight/Gest age (total) |
| 2 Inspection of Records | 12 Maternal Pathologies |
| 3 Modification of Records | 13 Mortality and Maternal Pathologies |
| 4 Completeness Control | 14 Neonatal Mortality and Birthweight |
| 5 Consistency | 15 Neonatal Pathologies |
| 6 Basic Statistics | 16 Apgar and Method of Delivery |
| 7 Description of Variables | 17 Copying of Record Files |
| 8 Selection of Records | 18 End of Session |
| 9 Estimation of Risk | |

It is important to stress that one of the documents summarizes only the missing information of a given lot of SPCR forms. This encourages the health team to fill in the missing data.

As an example the processing of the Basic Statistics document (about 125 rates and prevalences) takes about 6 minutes for 1000 SPCR forms.

Over 50 Perinatal Institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean presently use the Perinatal Information System designed by C.L.A.P.