

THE PERINATAL INFORMATION SYSTEM IV: EXPERIENCE IN ITS USE IN  
12 COUNTRIES

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The Latin American Centre for Perinatology and Human Development (C.L.A.P. PAHO/WHO) offers since 1985 the Perinatal Information System to the Perinatal institutions that apply for it. As of October 1986, C.L.A.P. has contributed actively in the adoption and use of the System in twelve American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad Tobago and Uruguay).

The first step in the adoption of the Simplified Perinatal Clinical Record (SPCR) is a two-hour workshop aimed mainly at the motivation of the health team and at its training in the filling of the SPCR form. Local adaptation of the items is established as well as the flow of information between departments and eventually with medical institutions of other levels of care.

The second step consists of the installation of a personal computer in the premises where perinatal health care is given. Members of the health team are introduced to the use of the software package. A routine for data entry, correction and analysis is then established.

The results of data processing are discussed with the members of the health team. Information on the compliance of local medical and documentation standards is highlighted from the start.

The successful experience gathered can be described by the following points:

- the installation of the System is straight forward
- the users accept the System willingly
- favorable effects on perinatal care are obtained
- detailed information for an evaluation of perinatal health status is obtained