Implementation of the Basic Antenatal Care approach: A tailored practice framework for eThekwini District, KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)

By

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Introduction and Background

- Globally antenatal care (ANC) is advocated as the cornerstone for reducing children’s deaths and improving maternal health.

- The Basic Antenatal Care (BANC) is an approach that is used in the public health institutions of South Africa to provide ANC care services to pregnant women.
Introduction and Background (cont)

• The approach is listed as one of the priority interventions for reducing maternal and child mortality in the country.

• It was adopted from Focussed Antenatal Care (FANC) model by the WHO.

• The WHO designed and tested a FANC model for the developing countries to improve their quality of ANC services.
Research problem

• South Africa had not been able to successfully implement the BANC approach.

• Evident in:
  ✓ Quality of ANC
  ✓ Persistent problem of maternal and perinatal deaths
  ✓ Other adverse pregnancy outcomes
Research aim

• Identify a tailored practice framework for implementation of the BANC approach in line with the provisions of the BANC Principles of Good Care and Guidelines.

• A tailored practice framework would be an individualised nursing intervention approach based on settings and pregnant women’s specific factors.
Research objectives

• Assess the implementation of the BANC approach in the PHC clinics

• Analyse pregnant women’s ANC records for evidence of application of the BANC principles of good care and guidelines.
Research objectives (cont)

• Describe the perceptions of pregnant women regarding ANC that was provided in the PHC clinics that were implementing the BANC approach.

• Develop a tailored practice framework to facilitate the implementation of the BANC approach in line with the provision of the BANC Principles of Good Care and Guidelines.
Research questions

• Were BANC principles of good care and guidelines being implemented in the PHC clinics?

• Which BANC guidelines, if any, were evident in the pregnant women’s ANC records?
Research questions (cont)

• What were the perceptions of the pregnant women about the healthcare services that were rendered in the PHC clinics that were implementing the BANC approach?

• What would be the practice framework which would facilitate the implementation of the BANC approach in line with the provisions of the BANC Principles of Good Care and Guidelines?
Research method

• A convergent parallel mixed methods design was used
• Oakland’s Total Quality Management (TQM) model was used as a theoretical framework
  ✓ 4Ps: people, planning, processes and performance
  ✓ 3Cs: communication, culture and commitment
Research setting, participants and data collection methods

• The study was conducted in eThekwini District in KZN, South Africa
• Data were collected from 12 PHC clinics that were providing ANC services and implementing the BANC approach
• Data collection included
  ✓ Observations,
  ✓ Retrospective record reviews and
  ✓ Semi-structured interviews conducted with pregnant women.
Data Collection and analysis

• The researcher plus 4 research assistants collected data.
• Observations: 5 days per PHC clinic = 60 days
• Record reviews: 100x12 = 1200 Maternity case records
• Interviews: 4-5 per PHC clinic = 54 (data saturation)
Data analysis

• The quantitative data was analysed using version 21.0 of the Statistical package of social services and
• The qualitative data was analysed using Tech’s method of data analysis.
• Conversion of qualitative: Quantitising
• All data sets were triangulated
Research findings

• The BANC approach was not being successfully implemented in the PHC clinics.
• Several aspects of TQM were not done according to the BANC Principles of Good Care and Guidelines.
Although good communication was observed between the clinic staff members and the referral institutions, communication problems existed between the PHC clinics and the Emergency Medical Rescue Services and also with the pregnant women.
Research findings (cont)

• Antenatal care and delivery plans and the midwives’ counter checking of maternity charts were not recorded.

• Some pregnant women had positive perceptions about the ANC services but others had negative perceptions.
Recommendations

Recommendations pertaining to:

• Policy development: implementation
• Institutional management and practice: planning and evaluation
• Nursing education: Training of midwives
• Further research were made: a bigger study
A tailored practice framework

- A tailored practice framework was developed
- Considered setting and client-specific factors
- The framework highlights the importance of cooperation between management and administration, in-service education and skills development departments/units and the operational level.
- An implementation guide was also developed
Conclusion

• Effective implementation of the BANC approach could help to reduce South Africa’s high maternal and neonatal mortality rates.

• The tailored practice framework and implementation guide, developed as part of this study, could help to improve maternal and neonatal health-related outcomes in South Africa.
Limitations

- Data collection did not include gathering information from the clinics’ staff members who were involved in the implementation of the BANC approach.

- The duration of observation in each PHC clinic was short (five days) not affording the researcher the opportunity to witness enough of the aspects that she had planned to observe such as attending to emergency situations and communication with referral institutions.

- No interviews were conducted with people from ANC clinics that adhered to the old traditional method and therefore could not supply specific information as to why they did not yet implement the BANC approach.
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Thank you!!!!!!!
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