

Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Clinical Guidelines

Introduction

Clinical Guidelines are systematically developed statements, which assist clinicians and patients in making decisions about appropriate treatment for specific conditions based on the best scientific evidence at the time of development. Guidelines are not intended to limit the clinical freedom; however, clinicians are expected to follow these recommendations as the basis for their decisions. Availability of resources, the existing situations, and the expectations of individual client needs to be considered.

The guidelines are intended to guide all health care workers in all levels of institutions where maternity care is provided. Although these guidelines are mainly targeted for the government sector institutions, use in the private sector institutions where maternity care is provided, is also encouraged.

These guidelines are developed by the guideline development group of the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in consultation with other relevant specialists such as anaesthesiologists, physicians, endocrinologists, and haematologists etc. The existing national guidelines developed in 2007, NICE guidelines on intranatal care, WHO guidelines and RCOG guidelines were perused and mixed with the local scenarios and expert opinion. The latest available scientific evidences were considered and included wherever necessary. Then, the draft guidelines were presented to a wider forum of obstetricians and consensus were reached. After that the guidelines were handed over to the Ministry of Health and consensus was built with the participation of a multi-disciplinary team including medical administrators, provincial health authorities, representatives from SLCOG and other relevant professional colleges, and national programme managers.