Safer Baby Bundle Masterclass



Smoking Cessation



Fetal Growth Restriction (FGR)



Decreased Fetal Movement (DFM)



Side Sleeping



Timing of Birth





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Before we get started

The Safer Baby Bundle is based on the best available evidence at the time of its preparation.

- It is being led by the Stillbirth Centre of Research Excellence (Stillbirth CRE).
- The Stillbirth CRE work in partnership with health departments, parent organisations, professional colleges, researchers, clinicians and women.



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Impact of Stillbirth

1-3

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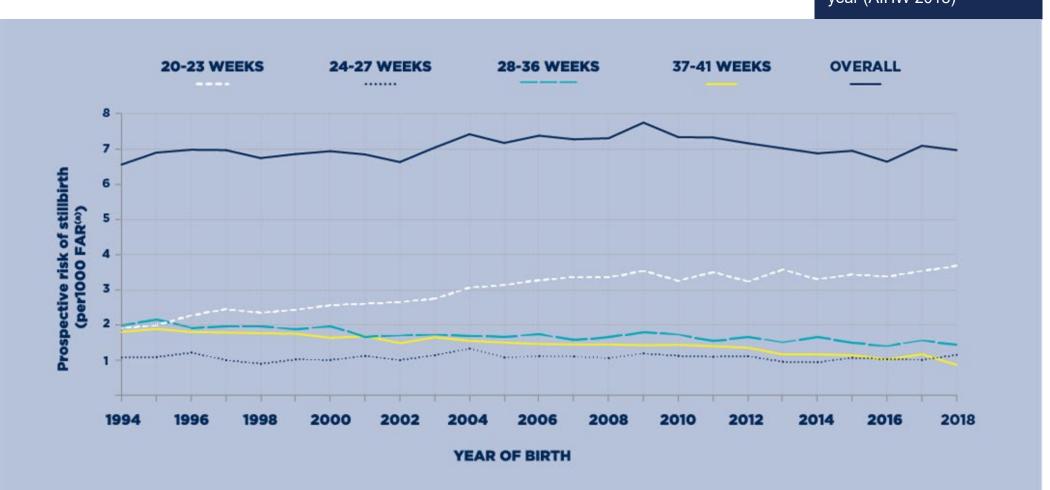
- Psychological and emotional distress, and isolation
- Increased healthcare costs
- Negative effect of staff
- Increased risk of family breakdown
- Stigma, abandonment and abuse
- Reduced earnings from employment, maternity and paternity leave, and healthcare expenses



Australian Stillbirth rates

By gestation 1994 to 2018 4.

In 2018 the stillbirth rate in Australia was 6.7 per 1000 births . This equals almost 2,200 babies per year (AIHW 2018)



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Australian Stillbirth rates

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- Stillbirth disproportionately affects
 Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander
 women ⁶
- In 2016 the stillbirth rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women was 10.6 per 1000 births ⁷
 - Vs the rate for non indigenous women of 6.7 per 1000
- Migrant and refugee populations, rural and remote communities and socio economically disadvantaged women also face significantly increased risks



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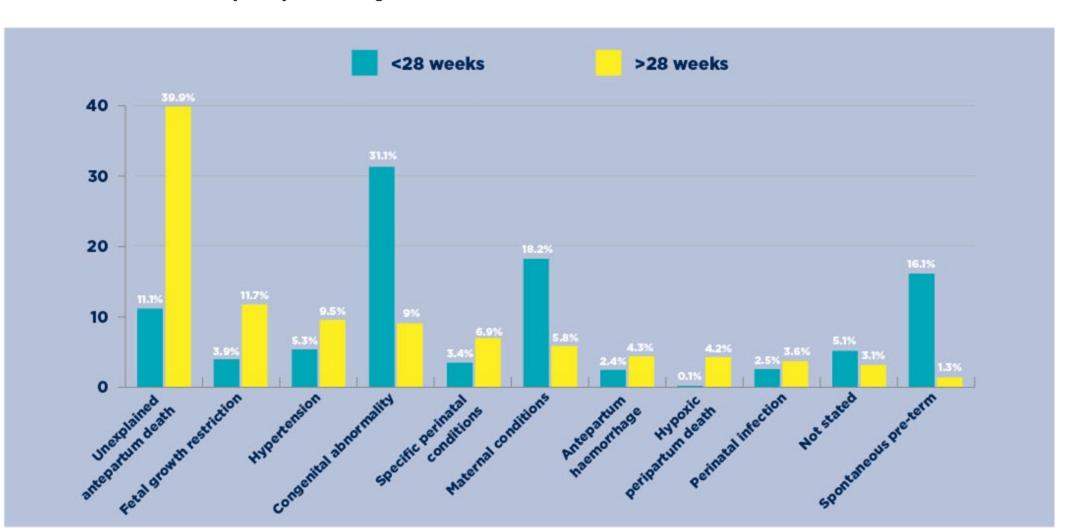
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Causes of Stillbirth in Australia

Stillbirth cause of death by early and late gestions



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What are the stillbirth risk factors?

Maternal 9-16



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What are stillbirth risk factors?

Pregnancy and medical 9-16



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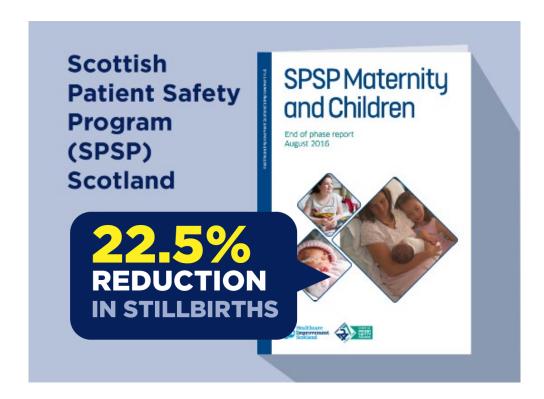
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We know that 'bundles of care' can save lives 17-20





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What is the Australian Safer Baby Bundle?

The Safer Baby Bundle is a national initiative with five evidence where improved practice can reduce the number of stillborn babies.

-based elements to address key areas



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GOAL

Reduce stillbirth from 28 weeks' gestation by **at least** 20% by 2023.

Smoking Cessation

Evidence summary

Stillbirth CRE position statement 'Smoking – one of the most important things to prevent in pregnancy and beyond' ²¹

READ MORE





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The evidence 22-26

A combined approach to smoking cessation has shown to be most effective. This includes:

- Behavioural intervention 'Ask, Advise,
 Help' m odel
- Carbon monoxide monitoring at the first antenatal visit for all women
- Consideration of nicotine replacement
 therapy (NRT) after careful discussion
 around risk and benefits
 - Detailed information on NRT available through Quit Victoria website







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Steps to assessing and managing risk factors

'Ask, Advise, Help' model of care

At first antenatal visit

- Screen and document tobacco use on the antenatal record
- Where available, record the exhaled breath carbon monoxide (CO) reading for all women (and their partners where possible)



At each subsequent antenatal visit

- Reassess smoking status
- At the 28 week visit, re -assess smoking status and exposure to passive smoking
- If CO monitor is available, record exhaled breath carbon monoxide (CO) reading



Ask all women about their smoking status using the following multiple choice format :

Can I ask you about your smoking status? Which statement best applies to you?

- I smoke more since pregnant
- I smoke less since pregnant
- I am smoking the same
- I used to smoke but quit
- I have never smoked

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26,27

The 3 step 'Ask, Advise, Help' model of care

At first antenatal visit

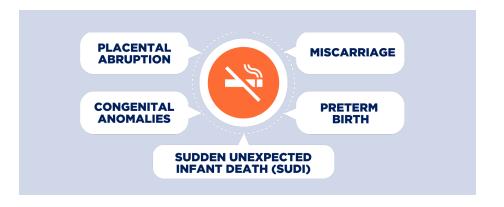
- For women who are smokers or recent quitters, advise them of the benefits of quitting
- Explain the importance of smoking cessation

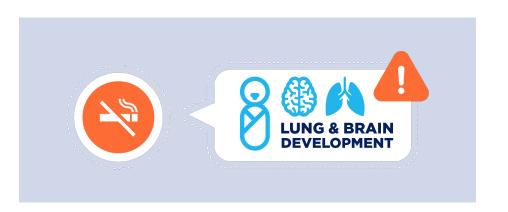


At each subsequent antenatal visit

- Offer personalised advice on how to stop smoking
- Reinforce the benefits of quitting and remaining smoke free at any state in pregnancy







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The 3 step 'Ask, Advise, Help' model of care



At first antenatal visit

Offer to help:

- Refer to Quitline
- Consider offering nicotine replacement therapy (NRT)

At each subsequent antenatal visit

 Consider offering nicotine replacement therapy ²⁶



It's part of routine care for us to refer all pregnant women who smoke to Quitline.

They've helped a lot of pregnant women quit. It's a free, confidential service. I can make that referral now, and they'll give you a call in a few days.

How does that sound?

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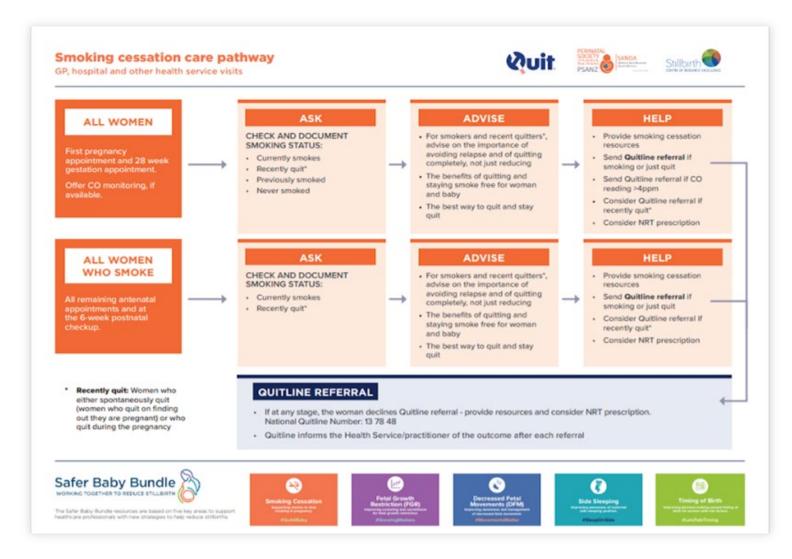
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Quit smoking for baby



What can help you quit smoking in pregnancy?

Your midwife, GP or obstetrician can help if you are thinking about quitting. They will suggest:

- Counselling services to help address your triggers
- For some women, quit smoking products may be needed

The most common counselling service for pregnant women is Quitline, which is staffed by specially-trained counsellors who will support you in trying to quit - not make you feel guilty. Contact your local Quitline for free on 13 7848 or download the 'Quit for you - quit for two' app designed for pregnant women.



Quitting early is best, but stopping at any time in your pregnancy will benefit you and your baby.

Myths and facts about smoking in pregnancy

I'm already three months pregnant. What's the point of stopping now?

It is never too late to quit. Quitting at any time during pregnancy reduces the harm to you and your baby.

How about I just cut down?

Cutting down doesn't reduce the risks to your baby or you.

Smoking relaxes me when I'm stressed - isn't that better for my baby?

Smoking actually speeds up your heart rate, increases your blood pressure and affects your baby's heart rate. Finding another way to relax is much better and safer for you both.

Call Quitline on 13 7848 or visit quitline.org.au







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A5 Flyer for Women

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Videos modelling conversations about quitting smoking with pregnant women using 'Ask, Advice, Help' model of care.

Talking with women about smoking cessation

Step 1: ASK

https://vimeo.com/363969790

Discussing the benefits of smoking cessation

Step 2: ADVISE
For women reluctant to quit

https://vimeo.com/363974014



https://vimeo.com/364923189



https://vimeo.com/363978721

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Questions for discussion:

- What is the process of referring a woman to Quitline in your service?
- What resources (eg smokerlyzer and SBB resources) or equipment limitations do you have? How can these be overcome?
- How will you monitor women's engagement with smoking cessation services?



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Fetal Growth Restriction (FGR)

Evidence summary

Position Statement: Detection and management of women with Fetal Growth Restriction in singleton pregnancies ²⁸

READ MORE





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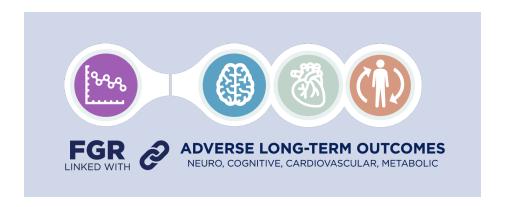
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The evidence

- Improving the detection and management of FGR/ SGA is an important strategy to reduce stillbirth ^{29,30}
- If FGR is present, but it is NOT detected, the fetus is eight times more likely to be stillborn 32,32
- Less than 1/3 of growth restricted/small for gestational age fetuses are detected antenatally 33
- Educational programs for maternity care providers have been shown to improve the detection of SGA/FGR and reduce stillbirth rates ³⁴





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Steps to assessing and managing risk factors

31,33-36

Assess all women for risk factors at booking and at each antenatal visit and provided with information about FGR Standardise SFH measurement for all maternity healthcare professionals. Consider low dose aspirin (100-150 mg nocte) for women at increased risk of FGR Discuss with women the recommended plan for monitoring fetal growth in pregnancy based on risk factor assessment Frequency of ultrasound surveillance should be based on the number of FGR risks, prior history and service capability Where modifiable risk factors exist, provide advice and support to women (e.g. smoking and substance abuse cessation

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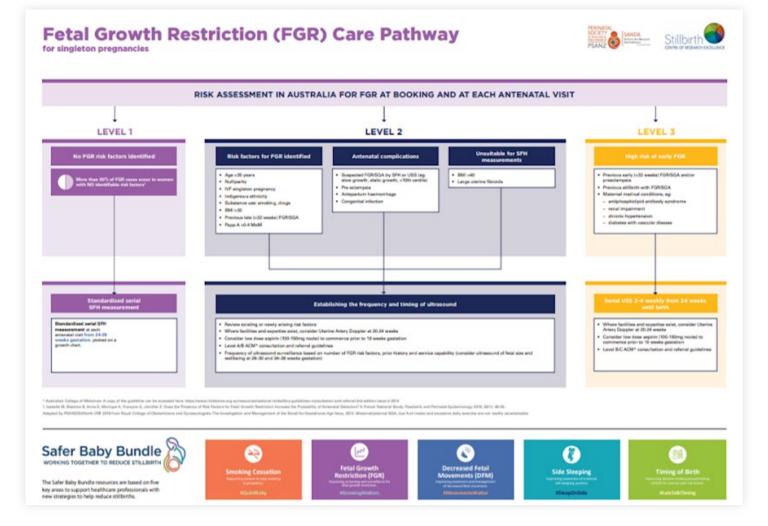
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Care Pathway

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#growingmatters At each antenatal visit from 24-28 weeks your baby's growth will be measured and plotted on a growth chart. The Safer Baby program recommends you attend all your pregnancy care appointments to assess, measure and monitor your baby's growth to reduce your risk of stillbirth. FIND OUT MORE #saferbaby

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Questions for discussion:

- Do you have a checklist for assessing FGR risk factors at every visit?
- Do you have timely and affordable access to ultrasound scanning for women with suspected/confirmed FGR?



Decreased Fetal Movement (DFM)

Evidence summary

Clinical practice guideline for the care of women with decreased fetal movements for women with a singleton pregnancy from 28 weeks' gestation

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READ MORE





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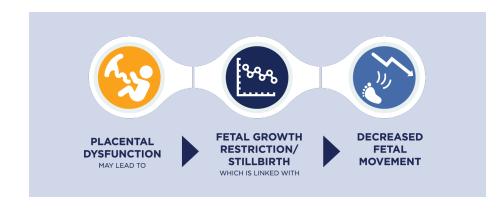
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The evidence

- Although DFM is a common concern among women, they often delay talking to their health care provider about it
- Antenatal education about fetal movement has been shown to reduce the time from maternal perception of DFM to health care seeking behaviour 40-43
- 'Kick counting' has not shown to be effective 44,45
- Implementation of uniform practice guidelines and raised awareness of DFM has been shown to highlight babies at risk of stillbirth





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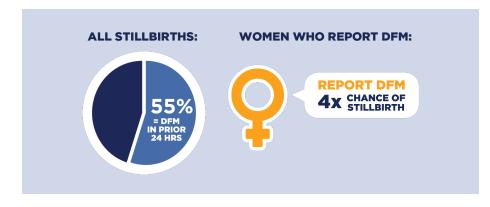
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The evidence

- The UK AFFIRM study demonstrated no statistically significant reduction in the stillbirth rate after implementation of their care bundle 45
- An increase in IOL, caesarean section and neonatal admission to special care was seen
- There was a reduction SGA babies born after 40 weeks suggesting the interventions did identify a population of high -risk babies
- More investigation into DFM and potential unintended consequences is needed





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Steps to assessing and managing risk factors

All women should be counselled about the importance of fetal movement

before 28 weeks

INITIAL RESPONSE – Don't delay seeking help, do not stimulate with food or fluid! **CLINICAL ASSESSMENT** CARDIOTOCOGRAPHY (CTG) **FURTHER INVESTIGATION BIRTH PLANNING**

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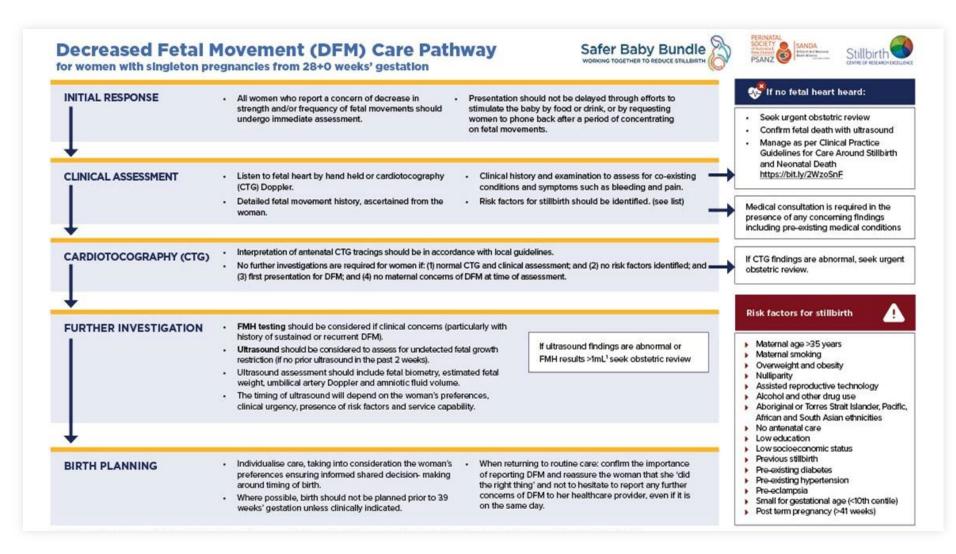
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Questions for discussion:

- Are there any challenges to implementing the DFM care pathway in the context of your local site?
- Are there limitations with access to equipment or resources?
- Does your facility have a local practice guideline?



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Evidence summary

Position Statement:
Mothers' going -to-sleep
position in late pregnancy

READ MORE





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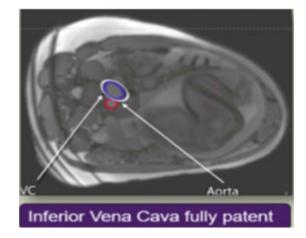
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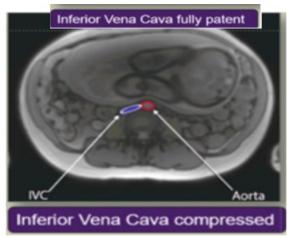
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The evidence

- Accumulating evidence has shown an association between maternal supine going -to sleep position and stillbirth after 28 weeks in pregnancy. 9,50,51
- In Australia and NZ the population attributable risk is 10%. This indicates 1:10 stillbirths could be avoided if women fall to sleep on their side.
- Research in New Zealand used MRI technology to assess haemodynamic effects that can compromise fetal wellbeing 53





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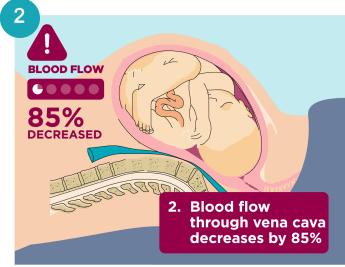
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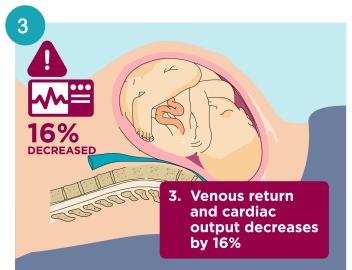
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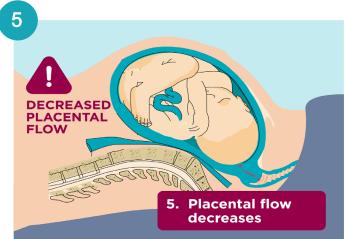
The evidence













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The recommendations

Steps to assessing and managing risk factors

- Provide all pregnant women with verbal and written information about stillbirth risk reduction practices.
- Emphasise that supine (on your back)
 sleeping position is a risk factor for late
 stillbirth
- Reassure women that it's normal to change position during sleep - the important thing is to start each sleep on their side
- Current evidence shows that both the left and right side going -to-sleep positions are equally safe



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Why should I sleep on my side?

After 28 weeks of pregnancy, lying on your back presses on major blood vessels which can reduce blood flow to your womb and oxygen supply to your baby.

What is the risk of stillbirth if I go to sleep on my back?

Stillbirth after 28 weeks of pregnancy affects about one in every 500 babies. However, research has confirmed that going to sleep on your side halves your risk of stillbirth compared with sleeping on your back.

Is it best to go to sleep on my left or right side?

You can go to sleep on either the left or the right side – either side is fine.

What if I feel more comfortable going to sleep on my back?

Even if you prefer it, going to sleep on your back is not best for baby after 28 weeks of pregnancy.

What if I wake up on my back?

It's normal to change position during sleep and many pregnant women wake up on their back. That's OK! The important thing is to start every sleep lying on your side (both for daytime naps and at night). If you wake up on your back, just roll over on your side.

For more information please contact your midwife, nurse or doctor.

For information on the side sleep study, visit https://bit.ly/2PSJhhC. We thank Tommy's UK for allowing us to adapt their campaign for our purpose.

www.health.nsw.gov.au/reducingstillbirth

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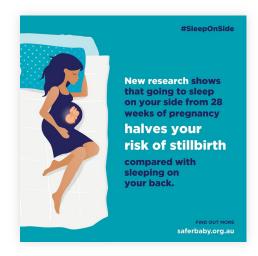
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A5 flyer for women (translated language versions available)

Resources











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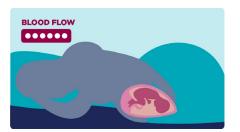
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Questions for discussion:

- Are there any challenges or concerns you expect to face from women when advising them about side sleeping?
- What questions might be asked by women about safe sleeping? How would you respond?







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Evidence summary

Position Statement: Improving decision -making about the timing of birth for women with risk factors for stillbirth ⁵⁴

READ MORE





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The evidence

- There is clear evidence that some maternal and pregnancy factors increase a woman's risk of stillbirth ³
- Early recognition of a woman's risk of stillbirth and provision of appropriate individualised care throughout pregnancy is a key stillbirth prevention strategy
- For some women with risk factors planned
 birth can prevent stillbirth ^{57,58}
- The benefits of planned birth need to be carefully weighed against the risks of intervention





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Recommendations

Steps to assessing and managing risk factors

S Stillbirth risk assessment in early pregnancy

Tests and further investigations as indicated

Evaluate and re -assess risk at 34 to 36+6 weeks

Plan for increased surveillance where indicated

Support informed, shared decision -making on timing of birth

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Introduction

EVERY WEEK COUNTS TOWARDS THE END OF PREGNANCY

2/10,000

Through research we're discovering that every week your baby continues to grow inside you makes a difference to their short and long term health outcomes.

7/10,000

moking Cessation

WEEKS' GESTATION

BABY'S BRAIN

A baby's brain at 35 weeks weighs only twothirds of what it will weigh at 39–40 weeks

BABY'S RISK AT BIRTH

Number of babies spending time in a special care baby unit

LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AT SCHOOL ENTRY

STILLBIRTH

Per 10,000 ongoing single baby pregnancies*

*NSW Perinatal Data



3/10,000

4/10.000

Brain development is responsible for learning, movement and coordination

Babies are less likely to need specialised care for breathing and feeding difficulties when born closer to their due date

There is less risk of learning difficulties at school entry for babies born closer to their due date

The rate of stillbirth increases slightly towards 40 weeks, but remains very low

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Every pregnancy is unique. The decision about the timing of your birth should be based on balancing health benefits to your baby with any risks specific to your pregnancy.

3/10.000

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Resources

Videos modelling conversations about timing of birth.







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Questions for discussion:

- How will you implement the '5 STEPS' process contextualised within your local site?
- Are there any practical limitations?
- What policies or guidelines are there to identify stillbirth risk factors at your institution.



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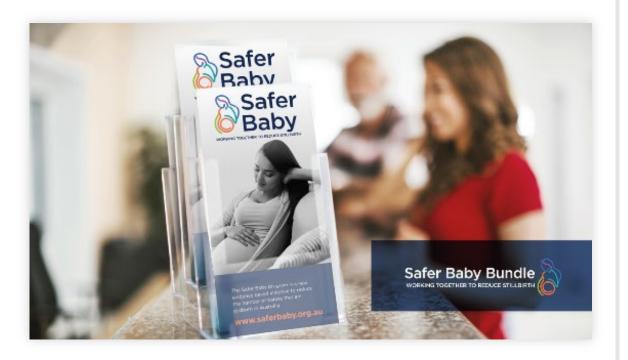
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Risk Communication

- Communication about stillbirth and risk factors for stillbirth is often insufficient
- Across all elements of the bundle , sensitive evidence -based communication is key
- Discussion around risk factors for stillbirth should be part of standard pregnancy care
- Women have expressed that they want
 clear and easy to understand information
 from their health professional about how
 they can reduce their risk of stillbirth



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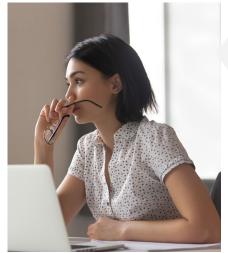
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What new mothers say

"The word stillbirth is incredibly important to include. Plenty of information is out there telling you to sleep on your side but none explain why.... no one expects their baby to die but we need a warning!"





"I think it is important to mention stillbirth as the risk because otherwise many women may not take the message as seriously as they should."

"We know it happens, we just think it won't happen to us. But we need to know what we can do to prevent it."





"Please just give pregnant women all the information there is about preventing stillbirth." Fetal Growth Restriction

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Continuity of Care

Statement from the Stillbirth Centre of Research Excellence:

The advantages of continuity of carer

Stillbirth is a serious public health problem with far reaching psychosocial and financial burden for families and society1.

Every day, six families in Australia will suffer the loss of a baby after 20 weeks of pregnancy, with little improvement in rates for more than two decades². Some of those stillbirths are preventable3.

Models of maternity care which provide for greater continuity, and therefore reduce the risk of fragmentation, should be provided and, as far as possible, women should see the same maternity care provider throughout pregnancy. There are a range of models of care which optimise continuity including midwifery, private and public obstetrician care and GP obstetric care, especially in

Midwifery continuity of carer offers women care provided by a known midwife or a small group of known midwives to women during pregnancy, birth and the early postnatal period. This care is provided in collaboration with other healthcare providers, including obstetricians, social support workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners/Workers. The WHO Pregnancy Care Guidelines recommends all women have access to midwifery continuity of care throughout the childbirth continuum4. There is high quality evidence that demonstrates reductions in overall fetal/neonatal loss when women receive continuity of care from a known midwife during pregnancy⁵. Further research is needed regarding the impact specifically on late-gestation stillbirth. Midwifery

continuity of carer is known to be of additional benefit for women at higher risk of stillbirth, such as young mothers, Aboriginal women⁷, and women from disadvantaged groups8. Where possible, women from these groups should be prioritised into being offered midwifery continuity of care models. Midwifery continuity of carer also improves the quality of care received by families whose baby is stillborn and is highly valued

There are many ways for health services to provide continuity of care. Not all health services may be able to provide continuity of care all the time and there are challenges involved in redesigning services to provide this to all women.10 Other approaches which provide continuity should be supported. This includes addressing the principles of continuity of care and carer, effective information-sharing and care coordination and ensuring a woman-centred approach to decision-making.

The Stillbirth CRE's Safer Baby Bundle aims to reduce the number of stillbirths after 28 weeks' gestation by 20% by 2023.

To complement and strengthen the five elements contained in the Safer Baby Bundle, the Stillbirth Centre of Research Excellence (Stillbirth CRE) recommends that maternity services increase the availability of continuity of care to all women and, in particular, for women with known risk factors for stillbirth. Continuity of care and carer should be an important strategy to help reduce stillbirth

- In addition to the five Bundle elements, we emphasise the need for maternity services to address the other important aspects of best practice care to reduce stillbirth rates
- The Stillbirth CRE have developed a position statement in support of this
- This includes the recommendation that maternity services increase the availability of continuity of care models to all women (reducing the risk of fragmentation of care), and in particular, for women at increased risk of stillbirth





Perinatal Mortality Audit

- Perinatal mortality audits in the Netherlands, the UK and New Zealand show substandard care factors are present in 20 -30% of cases ^{59,60}
- Audit, when combined with feedback to care providers, can change practice and improve health outcomes
- Particularly useful when combined with an action plan and clear measurable targets
- IMPROVE eLearning covers key skills and knowledge



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COVID -19 and the Safer Baby Bundle

- During the COVID -19 pandemic the Safer Baby Bundle messaging remains largely the same and as important as ever
- For pregnant women concerns around being exposed to COVID -19 may lead them to avoid seeking care to reduce their risk of contracting the infection
- We have developed resources for both clinicians and women to highlight changes in practice during COVID -19

Safer Baby Important messages about stillbirth prevention from healthcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. #MovementsMatter Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, monitoring your baby's movements Please call your healthcare provider immediately if concerned and come in The use of at-home Doppler ultrasound to listen to your baby's heart rate as a way of checking your baby's health is not based on good research and is not recommended. Your baby's movements are the most reliable way to know your baby is well #Quit4Baby Smoking may increase the severity of COVID-19 infection. Stopping smoking in pregnancy is important for both you and your baby, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic Help is available to help you and your partner to stop smoking in pregnancy. Talk to your midwife or doctor and seek additional help from Quitline #SleepOnSide Going to sleep on your side from 28 weeks' gestation is safest, do not worry if you wake up on your back, settle to sleep on your side again. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this is an important step that women can take to reduce #GrowingMatters Monitoring baby's movements is an important indicator of fetal wellbeing. If something doesn't feel right, or if you feel like your baby is not growing appropriately, please contact your healthcare provider. · The risk of having a stillborn baby is small for most women and there are ways to reduce the risk even further. Your healthcare provider will talk with you about your own risk for having a stillborn baby and discuss with you steps you can take to reduce the risks such as being aware of your baby's movements and sleeping on your side. For some women, particularly those with risk factors for stillbirth, having the baby earlier than the due date might be best. Currently, maternal COVID-19 infection is not considered a risk factor for stillbirth or a reason for early planned birth unless there are immediate risks to the

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Fact Sheet for Women

For more information about the Safer Baby program and reducing the risk of stillbirth, contact your maternity health care professional or go to saferbaby.org.au.

neonatal complications.

· Avoiding early planned birth unless clearly clinically indicated will minimise risk of

Safer Baby resources available for women

- Safer Baby resources are available for clinicians to share with pregnant women. These are designed using easy to understand language to educate women about the risks of stillbirth and the five elements of care to reduce stillbirth risks.
- Resources available include waiting room poster, flyer for women and website www.saferbaby.org.au



Waiting room poster and flyer for women

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Safer Baby Bundle eLearning Module

For further detail and evidence base behind the Safer Baby Bundle, all downloadable resources and care pathways visit learn.stillbirthcre.org.au

- FREE educational training
- Accredited CPD points
- Six 20 m inute chapters, accessible on all devices
- Interactive learning including videos, quiz style questions and case studies
- Downloadable resources

Register now





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Thank you

The Safer Baby Bundle was



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developed by the Stillbirth CRE in partnership with professional colleges and organisations and parent advocacy organisations.

stillbirthcre.org.au/safer



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International Stillbirth Alliance







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