

## Clinical Handover between VMOs and Midwives



### Project Team

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### Summary

Mater Health Services recognised in 2006 that a focus was needed on processes associated with safe patient handovers and assistance was subsequently sought from the Council of International Hospitals to undertake literature search into 'Safe Patient Handovers.' The resultant report '*Ensuring Safe Patient Handovers between nursing shifts*' contained recommendations for safe handovers which led to the agreement on a set of key characteristics expressed for simplicity in the mnemonic SHARED. SHARED was planned to serve as a 'clinical handover guideline' for nursing and midwifery handovers across Mater Health Services.

Mater Health Services (MHS) has now further developed this guideline to support handover between Visiting Medical Officers (VMO's) and midwives for the specific handover of care related to maternity services at the Mater Mothers' Private Hospital (MMPH) and Mater Private Hospital – Redland (MPHR). The guideline has now become the SHARED framework. The tools developed to support this will be trialled in Mater Mothers Private Hospital across antenatal, birth suite and postnatal services. In order to ensure that the tool can also translate to less complex and busy maternity environments it will also be trialled at Mater Private Hospital Redland. Efforts will also be made to trial the tool with VMO's involved in non-obstetric elective surgery at Mater Private Hospital Redland as an add-on to the main project.

SHARED will specifically focus on the following "critical time around clinical points of care"

- Referral and admission of a patient from a VMO's private practice (**referral and admission**);
- Transfer of information from midwife/nurse to VMO when a change in a patient's condition occurs (**phone handover**);
- Handover from recovery nurse/midwife post c-section (**recovery room handover**).