

Maternity Access and Advocacy Pack & Train-the-trainer workshops



1. About the Maternity Access and Advocacy Pack

The Maternity Access and Advocacy Pack is a picture-based resource which aims to improve access to maternity services. It is designed for use by community organisations prior to contact with health workers and is intended to reach pregnant women and influential individuals within communities, both male and female. It was developed in close partnership with user groups from diverse ethnic communities.

The Pack consists of three storyboards containing illustrations drawn from pregnancy, birth and postnatal care. A supporting booklet contains further information about NHS maternity care and how to address any difficulties a woman may encounter in her care. It covers interpreters, consent, choice, domestic abuse, mental health, engagement with social services and other issues. The storyboards and booklet

emphasise the importance of early attendance for antenatal care.

The Pack is intended to be used with a group. It is not prescriptive in the topics covered and instead enables groups to use the pictures to identify issues for discussion.

Medact delivered papers on the Maternity Access and Advocacy Pack at the UK Public Health Association conference March 2007 and the Royal College of Midwives conference May 2007.

Medact is distributing 20 000 copies of the Pack free of charge to community groups. Boxes of 40 copies are available on request to statutory and voluntary organisations who can distribute to community organisations in their area. For further information, go to www.medact.org or contact us on maap@medact.org or 020 7324 4737.

2. Train-the-trainer workshops

The train-the-trainer workshops are aimed at individuals who will promote the resource amongst community groups in their area. These individuals may be staff of PCTs, Local Authorities, Sure Start Children's Centres or local networks of community organisations, community midwives, or others who play a role in promoting access to maternity services in their area.

The workshops are three hours long. They cover:

- Inequalities in maternal and infant health: evidence base and policy frameworks
- Development of the Maternity Access and Advocacy Pack
- How to use the Maternity Access and Advocacy Pack

The workshops assume a reasonable understanding of the health system. They will be most useful for individuals seeking to improve access to maternity services for equalities groups. They will support work to address infant mortality, late booking and non-attendance for antenatal care, and access for Black and minority ethnic women, teenagers, asylum seekers and others.

Medact has scheduled a series of workshops and details are available on our website. Workshops can be commissioned for other areas.

For further information, go to www.medact.org or contact us on maap@medact.org or 020 7324 4737.



4. About us

The Reaching Out Project at Medact aims to improve access to maternity services for highly marginalised women from Black and minority ethnic communities. We undertake policy work, develop information resources and provide training.

The Reaching Out Project
Medact
28 Charles Square
London N1 6HT
www.medact.org
T: 020 7324 4737

