Whose role is it? Primary care and the provision of emotional support for women experiencing miscarriage: a pilot qualitative Australian study

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Appendix S1. Interview Schedule

*General practitioners care of women experiencing miscarriage and the need for further tools and resources to enhance support.*

INTerview Schedule

Demographic questions
I would like to start by asking you some basic demographic information about you and your profession.

**PART A: YOU AND YOUR OCCUPATION**

1. Age: _______ years

2. Gender: □ Male □ Female

3. Practice postcode: _________

4. In which country did you obtain your primary medical degree: ___________________

5. What is your current level of training? (skip to Q6 if GP registrar)
   □ GP resident □ GP registrar □ GP fellow

6. Which Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program are you currently under? Or do you have other specialist GP qualifications that are recognized in Australia?
   __________________________________________________________________________

7. How long have your worked in general practice: _______months ________ years

8. How many sessions do you work in general practice in an average week: _________

9. How many GPs work at your practice? _______

10. Approximately what proportion (%) of your patients are females of reproductive age? _______

11. Do you have a particular interest in women’s health? Yes / No (If No, go to Q.13)

12. If yes, have you undertaken any specialist training in women’s health? Yes / No
   If yes, please detail:
   __________________________________________________________________________
13. What types of continuing professional development activities have you engaged in previously?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

14. What is your preferred format for continuing professional development activities? Why?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

15. Approximately how many women experiencing miscarriage have you seen in the past 12 months? _______

16. Are you aware of any specific policies or procedures in your place of employment for the support of women experiencing miscarriage? Y/N If yes, please detail:
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
__________

PART B: INTERVIEW - MANAGEMENT OF MISCARRIAGE

This interview schedule is a guide only. These areas of interest may be revised as interviewing progresses and reordered to optimise the flow of the interview. New topics/areas of interest that stem from earlier interviews may be added to the schedule.

ROUTINE PRACTICE

- At what point would you normally have contact with a woman experiencing miscarriage?

- What is your normal routine of care when a woman presents experiencing miscarriage?
  - Explore if they refer to early pregnancy assessment services or emergency departments?
  - Are there any situations in which this may differ?
  - Are there any situations in which you normally advise a woman to have a natural (or expectant) miscarriage?
• What information do you provide women with at this time?
  - e.g. causes of miscarriage, statistics around miscarriage, what to expect etc.
• If partners are present, would you provide any information specifically to them?
  e.g. how to support their partner? what their partner might experience physically following a miscarriage? Etc.
• Do you discuss the grieving process that might occur following miscarriage?

FOLLOW-UP CARE

• Do you routinely receive discharge summaries from early pregnancy assessment services or emergency departments about patients who have experienced miscarriage?

• Would you routinely follow up women in your care who have experienced a miscarriage?
  Why/Why not?

  - If yes:
    1. What would be your normal follow up process?
    2. Would you routinely enquire about women’s emotional wellbeing at follow up?
       Why/Why not? Would you routinely enquire about a partner’s wellbeing at follow up, if they were present? Why/why not?
    3. Would you refer women and/or their partners to support services or counselling at this time? Where do you refer? i.e. psychologist, SANDS etc.

BARRIERS TO PROVIDING SUPPORT CARE

• Have you had any prior training specifically in relation to the management of miscarriage? i.e. medical student training/specialist training?
  o Was there any specific training in relation to the emotional support following miscarriage?

• How well equipped do you feel you are to provide emotional support to women and partners experiencing miscarriage?

• How long do you think it takes for a woman to recover emotionally from miscarriage?
• What are the main gaps or barriers to providing emotional support following miscarriage?
  - Inability to follow-up?
  - Lack of knowledge/confidence/discomfort discussing miscarriage with women
  - Focus on the physical miscarriage care and not emotional care
  - Time pressures?
  - Lack of policies/training around support care
  - Busyness/limited resources/low priority

FURTHER TOOLS, INFORMATION & RESOURCES

• What information or services are you aware of that provide support to women and their partners affected by miscarriage? Please specify.
  - SANDS/ Bears of Hope/Pink Elephants Network/SIDS?
  - Education/Training/policies in how to support women experiencing miscarriage?

• What would be useful to help you support women and their partners affected by miscarriage?
  - Written information?
  - Support services list?
  - A diagnostic tool for psychological wellbeing following pregnancy loss
  - Better procedures around the referral/notification of miscarriage from ED/EPAS’?
  - Practice nurses to follow up women?

• What format would this be most useful in? - Hard copy pack/online/both

• We are thinking of developing a training webinar for GPs around miscarriage support.
  - Have you accessed webinars for CPD before?
  - Would this be useful to you?
  - What sort of information and resources would you like presented in the webinar?