

IntraUterine Device Insertions: Setting our standards

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Introduction: IntraUterine Device (IUD) insertion is a common procedure in our clinics. After sterilizations, it is the area of contraceptive provision with the maximum litigation. It is important not only to follow procedure guidelines for insertion but also to document these in the notes. This is helpful for subsequent follow-up as well as for medico-legal purposes.

Aim: To determine if documentation for IUD insertions is satisfactory in our clinics. To agree to what minimum documentation is mandatory to maintain our high standards.

Design: From the literature, a standard IUD insertion technique was used to draw up a questionnaire with minimum points for documentation in the case notes. This was then agreed by our team of doctors at the audit meeting. A retrospective analysis of case notes was done and a questionnaire completed for each IUD insertion.

Subjects and Setting: All women who had an IUD fitting at any of the Abacus clinics from 1st September'99 to 31st October'99.

Results: Out of the 232 IUD insertions, the gold standard for documentation was met in 65, however documentation for just over half the IUD insertions was satisfactory.

Conclusion: We were able to agree to a minimum dataset necessary to safely communicate with colleagues through the notes to help subsequent follow up and also minimise litigation. This has been incorporated in our IUD insertion protocol. A re-audit will be undertaken.