

## **A proposal for a European Minimum National Dataset for Termination of Pregnancy Services**

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Objective: To develop a European Minimum National Dataset for Termination of Pregnancy Services, suitable for computerisation and organisation of patient information in a standard systematic format, and would encourage appropriate documentation, engender quality assurance and increase efficiency.

Study design: Data from the different forms and documents used by British providers of termination of pregnancy (TOP) services were abstracted. The data items were then taken through the process of relational data analysis in order to eliminate data redundancy, resolve update anomalies and ambiguities, identify all relationships within the data so as to be suitable for computerisation and facilitate data maintenance.

Results: A minimum dataset of was developed, consisting of data items grouped logically in a set of tables in which all of the computerised system's data can be represented. These tables represent the entities about which information in the TOP service is to be kept. The tables were then used as the building blocks of a prototype of a simplified computerised Termination of Pregnancy information system suitable for use by different European countries.

Conclusion: Using the proposed European Minimum National Dataset Termination of Pregnancy Services suitable for computerisation, should engender uniform appropriate documentation, data collection and increased efficiency. It should also enable easy comparison of data form different countries, demonstrate the high standards achieved by TOP services and be useful in highlighting areas in which the service could be improved.