

The Alan & Cyril Body Trust

Registered Charity No 1133557



Mulago Report

February-March 2012

The past several weeks have been very busy for me. As well as a visit from the LMP and Ugandan Maternal Hub partners, I have spent a large proportion of my time at three health centres (Kawempe, Kasangati and Kabubbu) with the aim of improving their functionality and therefore reducing the congestion at Mulago. Below I have outlined my activities at these health centres as well as my continued work at Mulago.

My work at Kabubbu is progressing really well. After the community health education sessions on family planning we held a one day 'family planning camp' where we gave women the opportunity to choose the contraceptive method of their choice. We inserted 38 Implanons, 1 IUCD, numerous Depo-provera injections and the COCP. I provided training on the insertion of Implanons to the midwives at Kabubbu so they can continue to provide this contraceptive method. We plan on having these sessions on a regular basis. Next week we are holding a three day camp for cervical cancer screening using VIA (visual inspection with acetic acid). We anticipate a large number of women and have for this reason decided to provide this service for three days. Three specialist nurses are coming to Kabubbu to do the screening (two from Mulago and one from Mengo Hospital). We also aim to set this up as a regular service at Kabubbu. I have also been continuing with the CME sessions with the midwives, nurses and clinical officers.

Kawempe HC IV has been a challenge. After doing the first emergency caesarean back in February we have not done anymore and this is largely because of the lack of a junior medical officer (MO). The senior MO and I suggested selecting women from the antenatal clinic who require an elective caesarean to be done at Kawempe rather than refer them to Mulago. This has also not been easy and to make this harder a couple of weeks ago the entire nursing and midwifery staff were rotated to another hospital. The last time I visited I was pleasantly surprised to meet the junior MO who decided to return to work because he had heard that the operating theatre was now functional. He wants to do his masters in O&G and so seems very keen to get an elective list going.

During the latest HUB/LMP visit a team of us headed over to Kasangati HCIV in order to get the theatre up and running and also to give the maternity ward a facelift. This was a brilliant week and the midwives certainly seemed happy with the end result. The medical officer also seems enthusiastic about the project (his speciality is public health not O&G but he is trained in caesarean sections). I shall return on a regular basis to check on the progress.

I haven't spent as much time in Mulago as I would have liked to recently because I have been so busy at the other health centres. I have almost completed the service evaluation looking at frequency of patient monitoring with the help of Chanelle Beaumont (LMP volunteer). The results should be very interesting and we shall have to think hard about how to improve the situation. The kits definitely do help, but constant support and encouragement from the senior midwives and doctors is absolutely vital.