iCOPE is an interactive, digital platform that facilitates efficient and effective screening in the perinatal period (during pregnancy and year following birth). The Platform was developed in response to the current recognised barriers to screening across services, together with the absence of data to inform the extent to which screening is undertaken and the outcomes of screening under Australia’s national perinatal depression initiative (NPDI).

The Platform enables screening to be undertaken by patients/clients on a tablet (e.g. iPad), and scores to be automatically calculated, interpreted and reported for both health professionals and consumers. In addition to its clinical application, the Platform also facilitates the collection and collation of patient data for research purposes.

iCOPE has been developed by experts in the areas of perinatal best practice implementation (COPE), digital screening in public health (PreventionXpress) and perinatal screening research (PIRI).

How does the Platform work?

iCOPE is a web-based platform, accessed by providing health professionals with an individual login and password into the iCOPE system.

In consultation with the health practitioners and services, selected screening questions and questionnaires are loaded onto the digital platform.

In line with the clinical practice Guidelines, the iCOPE platform currently contains questions pertaining to:

- Psychosocial risk factors
- Symptoms of depression and anxiety – using the Edinburgh postnatal depression scale (EPDS)

Note: in addition to the above, other questions or questionnaires can be included on the screening device to meet the needs of the population, service and/or specific area of research.

Administration

The administration of questions on a tablet means that questionnaires can be completed in the waiting room (or within a consultation).

Whilst currently the Platform has been designed for use within settings and service environments, there is also the potential for screening to be undertaken off-site (remotely). In these instances provision is made at the outset to ensure patient access of supports surrounding screening.

Scoring and Reporting

Summary scores and interpretations are calculated in real time and compiled into reports for both health professionals and patients/clients at the time of screening to inform patient risk and clinical symptoms.

In addition patient data can be collected over time (longitudinal) to inform changes in clinical status.

Tailoring across sites and services

The iCOPE Platform can be tailored to reflect the branding and specific reporting needs across individual services. This includes for example, the inclusion of company branding on the screen.

Similarly, there is the capability to format clinical reports in order to meet internal reporting and policy requirements. This may include for example, adjusting layout and formatting, the inclusion of logos, bar codes, and specific patient information to ensure compliance with service requirements.
**Key advantages of the iCOPE Platform:**

- Saves time by enabling screening to be undertaken outside of the consultation
- Eliminates scorer error
- Produces automated clinician reports containing summary score data
- Embeds best practice by ensuring the consistent and accurate interpretation of clinical scales in accordance with clinical guidelines
- Provides tailored reports for consumers via email or SMS. These reports detail key personal risks and symptoms as well as providing links to further information and support/treatment services
- Enables screening questions and patient reports to be translated and delivered in multiple languages
- Automates the collection of identified patient data to provide sites with summary data regarding patient profiles, clinical status etc. to inform service needs
- Enables longitudinal collection of data so that patients can be monitored (and treatment outcomes assessed) over time
- Enables the collection of de-identified data to inform research, policy and service provision at a state/territory and national level

**Data Collection and reporting**

Data is collected and recorded automatically and in real time. Data is securely stored using secure messaging. This server-based approach protects sensitive data when sent beyond the corporate borders and provides compliance with industry regulations.

Each site has its own ‘sandbox’ of data, which is essentially all collected information in relation to patients screened within that service. This data can be provided to clients to enable them to undertake their own analysis and research on their clinical/research populations.

In addition there is also the option to have summary reports produced by COPE.

**Core requirements**

Whilst the tablets can draw on Wi-Fi, it is advised that this is in-built into the tablets (via sim card) to enable the screening to occur consistently and also be used off site as needed (for example on home visits).

Tablets can be purchased or leased by the service, and, if deemed necessary, electronic tracking devices can be located on the iPads. In the event of theft this enables the iPad device to be disabled immediately and tracked.
Contact information

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