Providing Disability-Inclusive Care for Pregnant Women

Handout #4 – Lola’s Case Study

**Case Study 1 – Meet Lola**

You are the WIN midwife in a busy maternity hospital. You run a WIN clinic on a Wednesday, and all pregnant women with a disability are referred to you after their first booking in visit. An antenatal clinic midwife has referred Lola to you, after identifying a disability at her first booking in visit.

**Lola is a 27-year-old woman who has cerebral palsy - she has an intellectual disability and a spinal deformity and uses crutches to walk. Lola is now 6 months pregnant and arrives at the WIN clinic for her first visit, accompanied by her mother.**

Part 1 - Brainstorm in your group:

* What do you need to know to care for Lola?

*Hint – think history-taking, physical assessment, psycho-social, emotional*

Part 2 – Brainstorm in your group:

* What are your concerns at this stage?
* What are your priorities?
* Identify strengths and possible challenges for Lola
* What is your plan for Lola during her pregnancy, birth and postpartum and how will you communicate this to other people caring for Lola during the perinatal period?

**Case Study 2 – Lola is in labour**

Lola has seen the WIN midwife every week throughout her pregnancy and everything has progressed well. Lola experienced increased severe muscle spasticity and cramping in her legs towards the end of her pregnancy, which has been managed with warm cloths on her legs, and her mother has been helping her with range of movement exercises. Lola saw an experienced obstetrician during her pregnancy, and she was confident that Lola’s pelvis was not impacted by her disability and a vaginal birth was possible.

**Lola and her mother present to the labour ward at 0800 on a Thursday morning. You are on shift in the labour ward and are allocated to look after Lola. You read the communication from the WIN clinic about Lola’s disability and her individual care needs.**

**Brainstorm in your group:**

* **What is your plan of care at this time for Lola to ensure that she is safely and respectfully cared for during labour and birth?**

**Case Study 3 – Visiting Lola on the postnatal ward**

As the WIN midwife, you visit Lola in the postnatal ward the next day. Lola gave birth to a baby boy by normal vaginal birth. She lost 400 mLs of blood at delivery and has some perineal sutures for a 2nd degree perineal tear.

**Lola is now on the postnatal ward and her is mother is able to stay with her to assist. She is trying to breastfeed but is having some difficulty attaching her baby to the breast. She is also having trouble comforting the baby when he is crying, as she cannot walk with her crutches and hold her baby at the same time.**

**Brainstorm in your group:**

**What is your plan of care for Lola in the postnatal ward before she can go home?**