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## Cartas

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Dear Colleague:

The School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin and the UK Cochrane Centre are seeking participation from individuals who have expertise in the area of evaluations of maternity care who will take part in a new electronic Delphi study to identify a minimum set of outcome measures for evaluating models of maternity care. Participation is easy, requiring you to "click" on various options in on-line questionnaires.

This study arose from a systematic review of the literature, which identified differences in outcome measures chosen in reporting evaluations of models of maternity care. The review highlighted the need for consensus on a clinical minimum data set to be used in the evaluation of models of maternity care. For the purpose of this study, a clinical minimum dataset is defined as a standardised, small number of clinical indicators, which collectively attempt to summarise the effectiveness of a model of care.

Participants in the study all have expertise in the evaluation of maternity care and will reflect the opinions of the following broad groups: women as maternity service users, midwives, obstetricians, paediatricians/neonatologists, policy-makers and service providers and researchers with expertise in maternity care research.

Your participation in this study is important and we very much hope you will choose to participate. All participants will be acknowledged in the final study report and will be forwarded with a copy of the final report.

If you would like to be part of this process please reply to this email with your name as soon as possible.

In addition, we would appreciate your help in identifying others with expertise in evaluations of maternity care. If you know of others who have this expertise, please forward this message to them also. Everybody with an interest and expertise in this area is welcome to participate.

The time-line for this project is short and we therefore look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Declan Devane, Lecturer in Midwifery, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin.

Cecily Begley, Director and Chair of Nursing & Midwifery, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin.

Colm OBoyle, Lecturer in Midwifery, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin.

Mike Clarke, Director and Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, UK Cochrane Centre, Oxford.

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