

# The Berlin Wall of UK Maternity Information Technology

*A brief summary of over 30 years Maternity IT experience (many other similar/smaller initiatives left out)*

## Academic Fantasies (or Future Nightmares?)

### CHARACTERISTICS

#### Centrally funded. Dominated by “Paralysis by Analysis”

Centrally controlled by IT experts and NHS managers (and sadly too often also by midwives or doctors unable to cope with the uncertainties of front-line patient care) Easily recognised because such initiatives are full of jargon words such as “Data Modelling”, “Entities”, “Business Case”, “Data Dictionaries”, “Category Values”, “Smart Cards”. Concepts useful in centrally controlled banks, stock control and travel agents, but seriously destructive in Individual clinical computing.

Documentation dominated by “Spreadsheets” (e.g. Excel) or “Databases” (e.g. Access) Always ignores existing functioning maternity computer systems or existing paper documents. Delusion that “if only” they can get the right group of experts together for a few unpaid days giving advice, they will finally achieve the definitive Perinatal Dataset. Almost always time limited. Can make a fortune for those commercially in charge, but with a crippling fast turnover rate by disillusioned employees.

### OUTLINE HISTORY

- 1964 (National Congenital Anomalies System)  
(National Statistical Service)
- 1985 **Korner** Maternity and Neonatal Datasets
- 1985?-? **Information Management Corporation**
- 1982-now **Read Coding** [RF]
- 1988-92 **M.U.M.M.I.E.S.** Project. “Data Modelling the information needs for maternity care”[RF]  
Taxpayer Cost > £½million. Never used by anyone!
- 1989-94 **H.E.S.S. Maternity Tail**
- 1992 Peat Marwick. “Data Model for Primary Care” [RF]
- 1993-now **Health Related Groups (H.R.G.s)** [RF]
- 1995-now Scottish (**SMR02 & SMR11**) Coppish System
- 1997-now **B.A.P.M. Neonatal Dataset**
- 1998-2000 “**Maternity Care Data Project - Data Dictionary.**” NHS-IT. Cost to taxpayer about £½million? Never used by anyone.[RF]
- 1996-00 **National Obstetric Anaesthetists Dataset** [RF]
- 2000 RCOG/Mary MacIntosh **New Korner** Initiative [RF]
- 2001-now Protos/Evolution progress frozen by iSoft

#### Perinatal Institute (West Midlands) - Professor Jason Gardosi

- 2000 - now **M.A.N.N.E.R.S** Datasets - *Funded*
- 2000? National Program for Information Technology [RF]  
- now (**NPfIT**) and **Computers for Health (CfH)**  
No evidence of any useful progress
- 2005 **The National Maternity Services Dataset Initiative / Logical Record Architecture Project (2005-current)** Dedicated to data collection without full reference to all relevant stakeholders. No help in Individual Patient Care Major cost implications in staff time to collect.[RF]

**RF** = R Fawdry Personal Initiative. **RF** = Personally involved  
[RF] = R Fawdry involved, but only as (expenses only) expert advisor attending 2-20 advisory ½-1 day meetings.

## Slow but Useful Progress

### CHARACTERISTICS

#### Locally funded or unfunded.

#### Main emphasis on “Individual Patient Care”

Purchasing strongly influenced by front line obstetricians and midwives. Recognises and accepts complexity. Helps to avoid duplication of existing paperwork but never aims to replace all paper. Primary data nearly always on paper. Based on a massive collection of existing paper-proformas and casenotes.

Accepts an essential place for client held “Pregnancy Records” easily readable by expectant mothers. Draft Datasets always a Wordprocessed document; chronologically arranged with flow-patterning; and NEVER a Spread sheet or a Database. Locally controlled. Mainly long term (5-20 year) initiatives.

### OUTLINE HISTORY

- 1979 Grant Application “Using computers to reduce Human Errors in Maternity Care” Start of the massive collection of Maternity Paperwork **RF**
- 1982-3 As Senior Registrar in Leeds “Programmed Aim for Maternity Care” (P.A.M.) research project **RF**
- 1984- - now “**Green Notes**” (Milton Keynes/ West Midlands)  
Used by > 3 million women. Influence still seen throughout UK. **RF** (with Ralph Settatree)
- 1984-now **Euroking/Miracle/CCL** Computer Systems
- 1990-2001 **Protos** Maternity Computer System  
Sold to 40 out of 200 U.K. Maternity Units  
“Knowledge Engineering” supplied mainly by RF.  
Start of his major collection of > 80 maternity datasets. 2001 Protos taken over by iSoft. All experienced maternity IT staff eventually left with a gagging clause. **RF**
- 1994 **National Maternity Record Project**  
- 2002 Still used in Scotland and several UK Hospitals (e.g. Peterborough, Cardiff, Cambridge) **RF**
- 2000 “**Captivating Data**” Initiative **RF**
- 2000-3 **Brighton Project** “The use of Electronic Patient Records in maternity services: professional and public acceptability” [RF]
- 2000 TV series “**Minimising Medical Mistakes by using computers**” **RF**

#### Perinatal Institute (West Midlands) - Professor Jason Gardosi

- 2000 - now “**Pregnancy Notes**” Initiative - *Unfunded*
- 2001 **Electronic Encyclopaedia of Perinatal Data (E.E.P.D.)** Personal Cost so far (over past 27 years) > £100,000 before tax. **RF**
- 2004 **Care Records** Maternity Computer System  
Several ex-Protos employees. Now being installed in an increasing number of U.K.sites

**Rupert Fawdry, FRCS(Ed), FRCOG**  
**20th July 2010**