**How can quality outcomes be measured in PIMHS? An exploration of the research and recommendations.**

Dwyer, Alice1

1. St John of God Health Care, Raphael Services NSW, Blacktown.

Alice.Dwyer2@sjog.org.au

There is increasing recognition that measuring patient outcomes is an important tool in managing quality in mental health services. Funding bodies, patient advocacy groups and managers are all interested in ensuring that patients are receiving effective, evidence based interventions that truly lead to improved mental health. Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Services (PIMHS) could benefit from participating in utilising current outcome measures available, or developing new ways to assess outcomes for PIMHS. This paper will address the core aims of PIMHS, and then review the availability of valid outcome measures for the PIMHS population, addressing issues such as availability, validity and reliability for each measure. Typical barriers to implementing and learning from outcome measures will be addressed. An example of possible suite of measures that could assist in improving quality in a generic PIMHS will then be outlined, with an example of how repeated data collection improved certain practices in the author’s own clinical experience.