



Global Birth Defects Description and Coding (GBDDC) App

Birth Defects App

The Global Birth Defects Description and Coding (GBDDC) App is for use in areas where local expertise in congenital anomaly diagnosis is scarce. The purpose of the App is to improve the description and coding of major externally visible congenital anomalies for surveillance and research.

The Brief

Working with Professor Helen Dolk and her team at the Ulster University we were asked to create the App for use on both Apple and Android devices. The App contents were prepared by the team at the University of Ulster. Funding was provided from the EU H2020 funded ZikaPLAN project grant agreement No 734584.

Main Purpose of the App

To provide a companion tool that can be used by a wide range of health professionals contributing to birth defect surveillance and research in low resource environments. It will assist with the description and coding of externally visible birth defects during the neonatal period. It is not intended to replace referral of the baby for clinical diagnosis, or to inform care options requiring clinical input.

The Solution

In addition to developing the App we also created an editable online database of text, photos, diagrams and translations which provides the source material for App revisions. This system allows for content revision without the need for changes to the source code.

The App can also be used in 'Surveillance' mode which allows registered users to collect additional anonymous/pseudonymised data on cases. We also created an online platform for the management of surveillance program registration codes and user accounts and to allow users to download their data.



Global Birth Defects App wins major digital health award

We are delighted that the Global Birth Defects App, which is available to download now, has recently achieved a Merit Award in the 4th Commonwealth Digital Health Awards 2020 in the Maternal and Neonatal Health category.

Dr. Leke Aminkeng, who presented the App to the award panel along with Katy Karnell, commented: "It is wonderful to have our App recognised at such a prestigious Awards ceremony, which we hope will help to spread news of the App to even more people."

The App has already been downloaded by people from 38 countries