

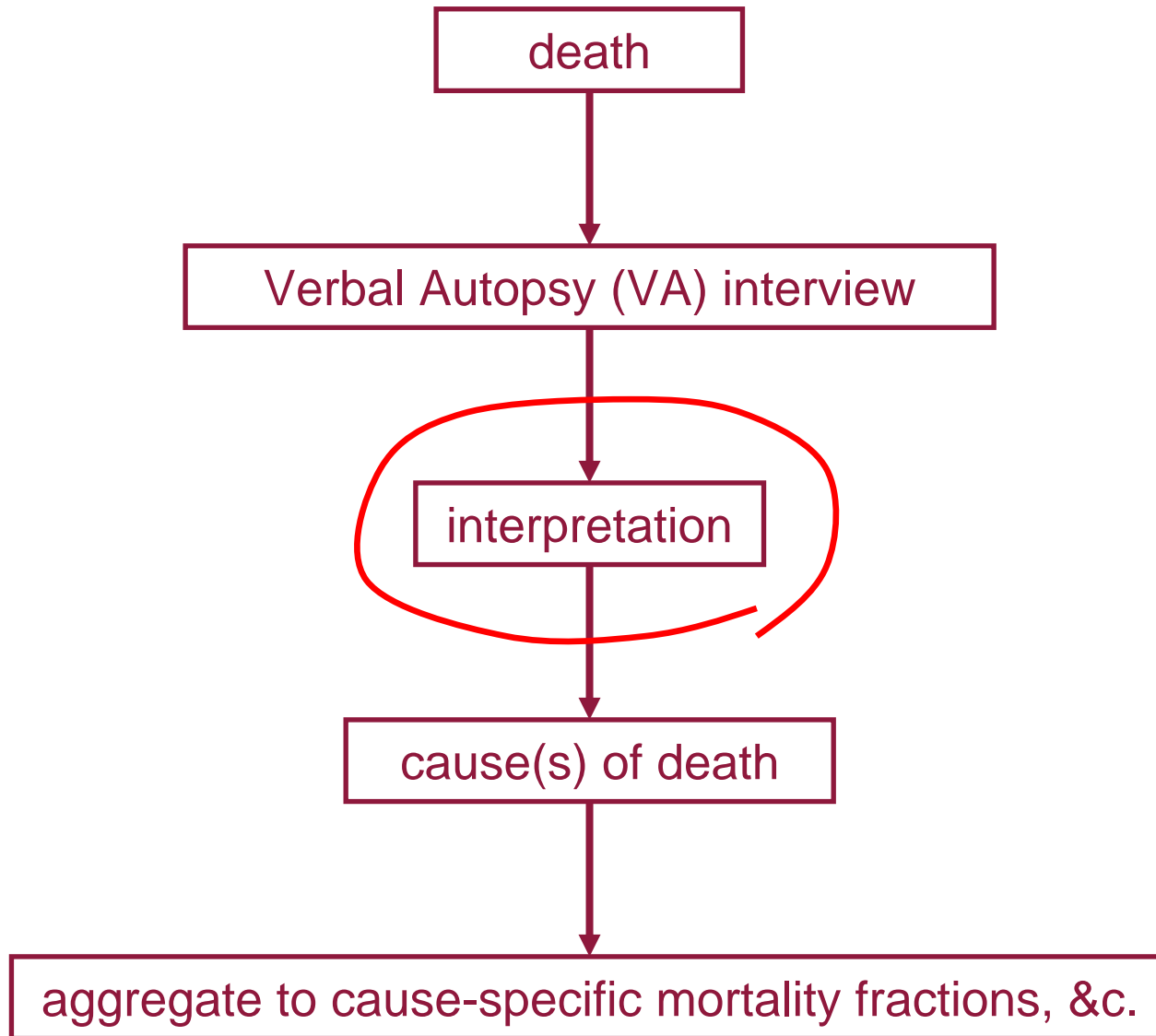


***Measuring causes of  
WRA mortality more  
objectively***

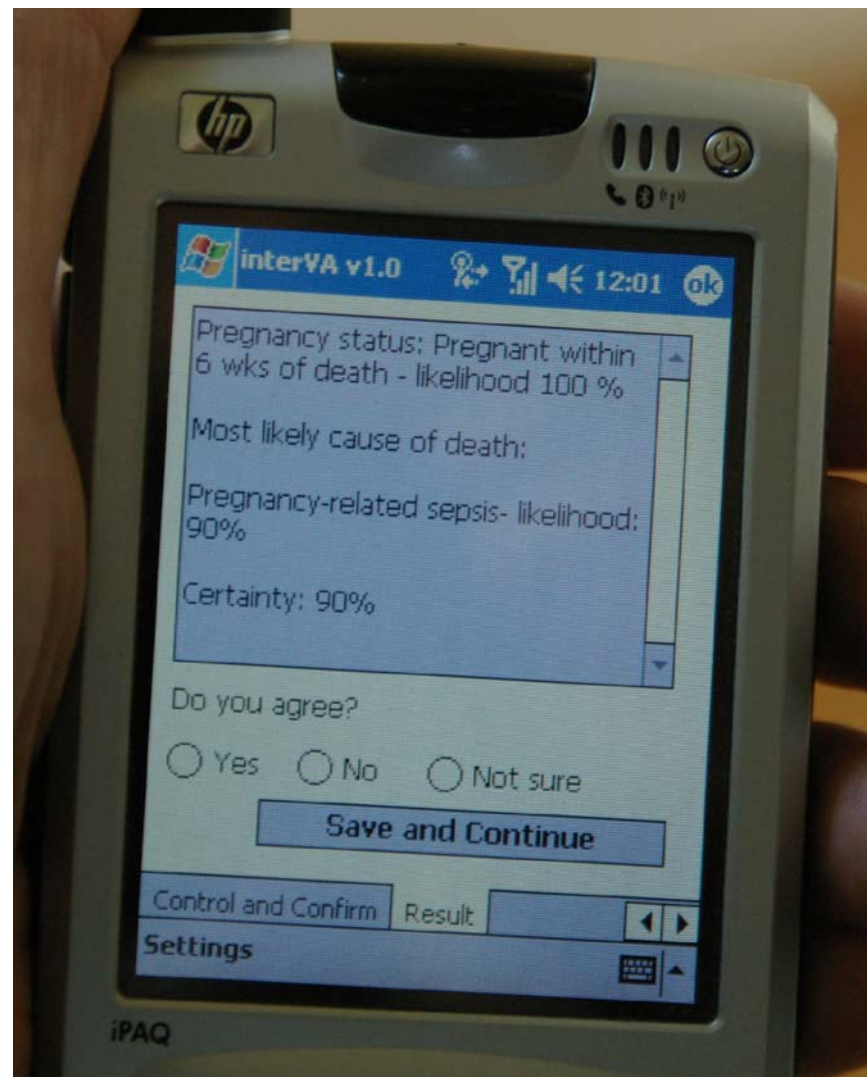
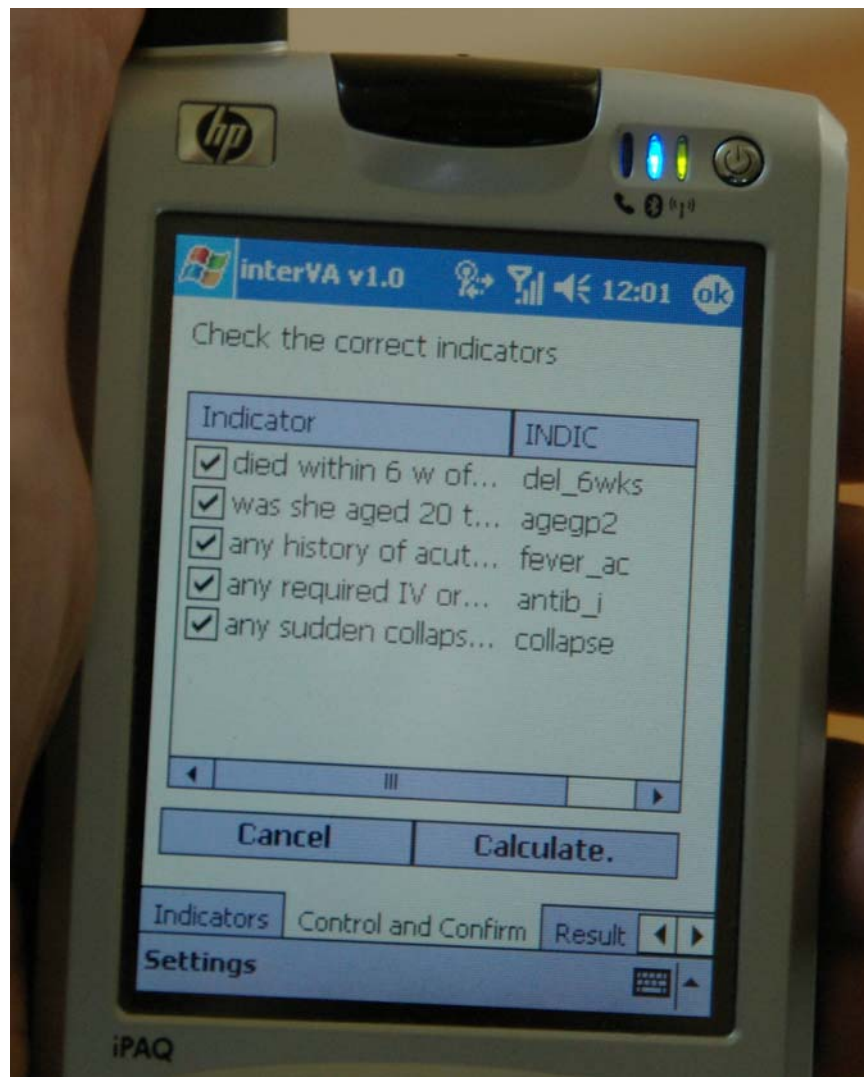
***Peter Byass***

19 October 2007

- Since MDG-5 is specified in terms of maternal mortality, we must be able to identify maternal deaths in order to measure progress towards the goal
- Most deaths among women of reproductive age occur in poorer countries and so are commonly not medically certified as to cause
- Verbal Autopsy (VA) – interviewing relatives and witnesses of deaths as to circumstances, symptoms, etc. has to be used to identify maternal deaths and specific causes







<b>Physicians</b>	<b>Computer models</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• expensive and sometimes scarce</li><li>• take time to handle large numbers of cases</li><li>• can be inconsistent (between individuals and over time)</li><li>• may be sensitive to very unusual or nuanced cases</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cheap and available</li><li>• very fast, even with large numbers of cases</li><li>• completely internally consistent over place and time</li><li>• may not respond well to very unusual cases</li></ul>