

SHORT TERM CONSULTANCY

I. PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

Under the supervision of the medical officer, Newborn health services, the consultant will participate in activities to support WHO's work in the area of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (MCA). In particular, the consultant will contribute to the ongoing work on the development of the standards of care for small and newborns in the health facilities to support quality of care of newborns in the context of the Universal Health Coverage with quality and to accelerate the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The consultant will also prepare background documents and contribute to organizing a technical consultation meeting to review and build consensus on the draft Standards of Care and quality statements for Small and Sick Newborn.

II. DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

In 2016 an estimated 5.6 million children under 5 years died, mostly from preventable causes, and 46% were in the first 28 days of life representing 2.6 million newborns. Children who die within the first 28 days of birth suffer from conditions and diseases associated with lack of quality care at birth or skilled care and treatment in the early postnatal period. The main causes of newborn deaths are prematurity and low-birth-weight, infections, asphyxia and birth trauma. About 75% of all neonatal deaths occur during the first week of life, and about 1 million newborns die within the first 24 hours. As most women now deliver in health facilities, attention can be focused on improving the quality of services provided in these facilities. Poor-quality services and care reduce the effectiveness of interventions and increase the risks for nosocomial infections, life-long disability and death from avoidable complications and preventable causes. Therefore, achieving the ambitious Sustainable Development Goal 3 will require universal health coverage with high-quality, affordable services for women, newborns and children, as stated in the Global strategy for women's, children's and adolescents' health (2016–2030).

Following the launch of the *Every Newborn An Action Plan to End Preventable Deaths (ENAP)* at the 67th World Health Assembly in 2014, Every Newborn Result Framework 2017-18 was developed to serve as a roadmap of key activities to accelerate progress towards National Milestones 2020. One of the key activities identified was the development of "**Standards of Care for Small and Sick Newborn**". These standards will complement the *Standards for improving quality of maternal and newborn care in health facilities*, published in 2016 which focused around the time of child birth and early postnatal period; and the *Standards for improving quality of care for children and young adolescents in health facilities*, published in 2018. These standards will respond to the need to define, standardize, and mainstream provision and experience care for small and sick newborns, building on the essential newborn care platform and in line with WHO quality of care framework.

To take this work forward in line with the WHO normative function, a rigorous approach will be used to review and analyse existing WHO approved recommendations and guidelines on newborn health, published literature on standards of care for small and sick newborns, and best practices from other international newborn health standards or guidelines. The standards are to provide a basis for what is expected and required as a bench mark for newborn quality improvement particularly in limited resource setting. The draft standards should address all eight domains of the paediatric quality of care framework (http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/quality-standards-child-

[adolescent/en/](#)). Each quality of care domain will have one standard with one or more quality statements, and each quality statement will have quality measures or criteria, thus input, output and outcome measures. The draft quality measures should be evidence based drawing from the existing guidelines and measurement tools, and will be finalized through a systematic iterative and consultative process.

In this context, the MCA Department is seeking the services of a consultant with the necessary expertise and experience to assist in the development of the Standards of Care for Small and Sick Newborns as per tasks and deliverables described below.

III. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The incumbent will have two main tasks; 1) to collate and review evidence to draft standards of care for small and sick newborns, 2) to prepare background documents for the technical consultation. Specifically, the incumbent will perform the following tasks: -

A. Tasks:

- 1) Review existing WHO guidelines and recommendations on newborn health, published literature on standards of care for small and sick newborns, and best practices from other international newborn health standards or guidelines and develop an outline of the scope of the standards.
- 2) Based on the agreed scope, draft the Standards of Care for Small and Sick Newborn for each of the eight domains of quality of care inclusive of their quality statements and quality measures using the WHO quality of care standards structure.
- 3) Gather inputs from the relevant WHO technical staff, key subject technical experts and maternal, newborn and child stakeholders.
- 4) Prepare background materials and contribute to organizing a technical meeting on Standards of Care for Small and Sick Newborn.

B. Deliverables:

1. Outline of the scope of the small and sick newborn standards of care based on WHO quality of care framework by 31st August 2018 (1 month).
2. A draft document on Standards for Care of Small and Sick Newborn including the quality statements by 31st October 2018 (2 months).
3. A draft document with quality measures for each of the standard quality statements 31st December 2018 (2 months).
4. Background documents for the technical meeting by 31st January 2019 (1 month).

C. Technical Supervision:

The incumbent will work under the direct supervision Dr Ornella Lincetto (lincettoor@who.int) and Dr Wilson Were (werew@who.int) of the Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, and the relevant WHO staff. During the consultancy, incumbent will engage the WHO counterparts electronic by email or teleconference and/ face to face meetings as necessary.

D. Duration of assignment:

The development of small and sick newborn standards and preparation for the technical meeting is planned for a duration of six months on a full-time basis. The incumbent will commence on 1st August 2018 to 31st and be complete the work by 31st January 2019.

Start date: 31.08.2018

End date: 31.01.2019

E. Work Effort:

6	Months (Please note that one month = 20 days)	<input type="checkbox"/> And <input type="checkbox"/> Or		Days
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Corresponds to a Full-Time Equivalent of: 100% (100% equals 40 hours a week – 4 weeks a month)

F. Geographical Location:

The consultant is free to work from anywhere but might be required to periodically travel to WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss with the relevant technical staff and to have access to organization resources.

G. Travel:

The Consultant will be expected to travel to WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland to meet with WHO technical staff and to attend the technical consultation meeting. Itineraries and estimated schedule will be developed depending on the need.

*All **travel arrangements** will be made by WHO – WHO will not be responsible for tickets purchased by the Consultant without the express, prior authorization of WHO. While on mission under the terms of this consultancy, the Consultant will receive **subsistence allowance** in line with the instructions applicable locally, or up to the maximum of the UN DSA.*

*Visas requirements: it is the Consultant's responsibility to fulfil visa **requirements** and ask for visa support letter(s) if needed*

IV. QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

A. Education:

Essential: Degree in medicine with an advanced level university degree in medicine with specialization in paediatrics or neonatology from a recognized university.

B. Experience:

Essential: A minimum of ten years' experience in clinical paediatric or neonatology practice, including at least 5 years in low resource settings.

Desirable: Experience working with WHO and Member States in programme implementation. Experience in teaching, evidence review and development of clinical guidelines and implementation tools.

C. Skills:

Excellent analytical, writing skills and communication skills, both oral and written. Ability to work under pressure and keep deadlines

V. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS:

Essential: Expert knowledge of English.

Desirable: Intermediate knowledge of French. Intermediate knowledge of any other UN language

VI. REMUNERATION:

Remuneration will be based on WHO standard daily rates for consultants commensurate with the level expertise and experience required which varies from US\$ 451 to US\$ 500. Payments will only be made as per the schedule below on submission of a satisfactory deliverable as per schedule below:

- 1) Deliverable 1: Outline of the scope of the standards on 31 August 2018
- 2) Deliverable 2: A draft document on Standards on 31 October 2018
- 3) Deliverable 3: A draft document with quality measures on 31 December 2018
- 4) Deliverable 4: Background materials for technical meeting on 31 January 2018

VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.

In the event that your candidature is retained for an interview, you will be required to provide, in advance, a scanned copy of the degree(s)/diploma(s)/certificate(s) required for this consultancy. WHO only considers higher educational qualifications obtained from an institution accredited/recognized in the World Higher Education Database (WHED), a list updated by the International Association of Universities (IAU)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The list can be accessed through the link: <http://www.whed.net/>.

In case a consultant is unable to perform the work due to illness or other personal circumstances, WHO may grant the consultant an additional period in which to complete the work (without any additional compensation) or terminate the contract in accordance with its terms.

VIII. Submission of Application

Interested applicants with the required essential qualifications and experience should submit a cover letter of interest, their curriculum vitae and copies of their qualifications to WHO no later than **26/07/2018 at 17.30:00 hours** CET (Geneva) time ("the Closing Date for Submission of applications"), by E-mail at the following address: mncah@who.int copied to lincettoor@who.int.

Applicants will also be required to fill their details in the WHO employment online system.