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Quality, Equity, Dignity

A Network for Improving Quality of Care
for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Updates- February 2021



NEW PUBLICATION

To provide a framework and strategies for countries to transform their policies on human resources for health (HRH) and provide their health workers with the knowledge and technical and behavioural skills necessary for high-quality newborn care, WHO has published [Human resource strategies to improve newborn care in health facilities in low- and middle-income countries](#).

The Human Resources Strategies document aims to provide a roadmap to countries to improve newborn care in health facilities in LMICs through targeting human resources policies and providing the required knowledge and technical skills to ensure high quality of care. It sets out national and subnational training options to optimize current HRH cadres and provide specialist newborn care roles, as well as national and subnational strategies for the provision of neonatal care.

The document accompanies the [Standards for improving the quality of care for small and sick newborns in health facilities](#) which was launched in 2020. Implementation of the Standards is underway in Network countries in 2021. In March 2021, 22 African Ministries of Health will convene



virtually to prepare implementation plans based on the standards and guidance in the Human Resource Strategies.

ADVANCING THE NETWORK WORK ON PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Guide on Engaging the Private Sector in Delivering Quality Maternal and Newborn Health Services

In January 2021, the Ministry of Health, Ghana and partners hosted a multi-stakeholder dialogue on engaging the private sector in delivering quality maternal and newborn health services. In most member countries of the Quality of Care Network, private health sector is one of the fastest growing segments of these health-care systems. Collaboration between the public and private sectors is therefore needed in delivering maternal and newborn health services with quality. To facilitate the information collection, analysis and development of recommendations as part of the dialogue, the network secretariat has prepared guidance to assist countries in planning, organizing and facilitating multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on private sector delivery of quality maternal and newborn health services.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEBINAR: Saving lives of babies with birth defects and improving their quality of life
Join WHO, CDC and March of the Dimes to mark World Birth Defects Day 2021

Wednesday 3 March 2021 at 2- 3:30 pm Geneva, 8-9:30 am EST

Please click [here](#) to join the webinar

With this webinar, we would like to commemorate World Birth Defects Day to raise awareness about **#ManyBirthdefects1Voice**. All children have the right to a healthy start in life. Babies born with birth defects are particularly at risk of death and lifelong disability. Many birth defects can be prevented and treated. But, when a baby is born with a birth defect, receiving the right care as soon as possible gives them the best chance to life and helps them reach their maximum potential. There is a need for strengthening healthcare services to meet the needs of babies born with a birth defect, in particular in low-and-middle income countries of Asia and Africa, where the health care systems are the weakest and the burden of birth defects is the highest.

MALAWI ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND PEDIATRIC QUALITY OF CARE STANDARDS
WEBINAR-TUESDAY 9 MARCH 2021 AT 12PM GMT, 2 PM CAT

REGISTER and add to your calendar: bit.ly/MalawiQoC
 WATCH LIVE on YouTube: bit.ly/QoCLive
 REQUEST to join the Quality of Care Community of Practice: bit.ly/JoinCoP

In November 2019, the Ministry of Health Malawi finalized the adaptation of the Quality of Care standards for maternal and newborn health and pediatric care. In 2020, the Ministry of Health developed quality improvement assessment tools to enable health facilities to report on the adapted standards. The QI assessment tool is comprehensive and uses a scoring method on each standard to measure how each facility is fairing.

This webinar will share Ministry of Health Malawi's experience in developing and in implementing the QI assessment tools and share lessons learned in this process.

Speakers:

- Dr. Malangizo Mbeve, Quality Management Directorate, Ministry of Health and Population Malawi
- Seleman Kondowe, Senior Quality Management Officer, Quality Management Directorate, Ministry of Health and Population Malawi

Facilitator:

- Martin Dohstien, Technical Officer, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, World Health Organization HQ

The webinar is co-hosted by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the QoC subgroup of the Child Health Task Force, with the support of the World Health Organization.

Read more and register: bit.ly/9Marchweb

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CHILD HEALTH TASK FORCE

WEBINAR: Malawi Assessment Tools for Maternal Newborn and Pediatric Quality of Care Standards

Tuesday 9 March 2021, 12pm GMT, 1pm Geneva, 2pm Central African Time

This webinar is co-hosted by the Network for Improving the Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Quality of Care Subgroup of the Child Health Task Force

[REGISTER](#) and add to your calendar
[Request](#) to join the Quality of Care for MNCH Community of Practice
[Watch](#) live on YouTube

In November 2019, the Ministry of Health Malawi finalized the adaptation of the Quality of Care standards for maternal and newborn health and pediatric care. In 2020, the Ministry of Health developed quality improvement assessment tools to enable health facilities to report on the adapted standards. The QI assessment tools are comprehensive and use a scoring method on each standard to measure how each facility is fairing.

This webinar will share the Ministry's experience in developing and in implementing the QI assessment tools and share lessons learned in the process. [Read more](#)

WEBINAR: Midwifery and Quality Improvement

Wednesday 17 March 2021 ,9-10am EDT, 2-3pm Geneva

[REGISTER](#) and add to your calendar

Organized by the WHO Collaborating Centers' Midwifery Network in partnership with the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

This webinar will focus on Quality Improvement in Midwifery and will showcase the work of three leading specialists in this area. Dr. Anneka Knutson (UNFPA) will give an overview of the essential role that midwives play in ensuring quality of MNH care. Dr. Harriet Chanza (WHO Country Office, Malawi) will share Malawi's experience of strengthening midwifery as an integral part quality Improvement for MNH. Thirdly, Dr. Rajesh Mehta (WHO Regional Office, South East Asia) will describe the role of the Point of Care Quality Improvement (POCQI) tool as a key part of the forthcoming 'Interprofessional Midwifery Education Toolkit'.

[Read more](#)

Opening Forum of the AlignMNH Collective

Save the date: April 20 and 21 2021, 8 am- 12pm EST

THE WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES' MIDWIFERY NETWORK WEBINAR SERIES 2020-2021 PRESENTS:

Midwifery and Quality Improvement

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17, 2021
 9:00-10:00 EDT, 13:00-14:00 UK, 14:00-15:00 CET
 REGISTER: bit.ly/MidwiferyQI

Introductions: Dr.Yoko Shimpuku, PhD, CNM, RN, Professor, Global Health Nursing

 DR. ANNEKA KNUTSSON PHD, RM CHIEF OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH BRANCH/TECHNICAL DIVISION UNFPA PRESENTATION TOPIC: QUALITY OF CARE IN THE HANDS OF MIDWIVES	 DR. HARRIET CHANZA NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL OFFICER, FAMILY HEALTH AND POPULATION, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION MALAWI PRESENTATION TOPIC: MALAWI'S EXPERIENCE- MIDWIFERY AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	 DR. RAJESH MEHTA MD REGIONAL ADVISER NEWBORN, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA PRESENTATION TOPIC: USE OF POINT OF CARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT APPROACH FOR 'STRENGTHENING MIDWIFERY LEARNING AND PRACTICE'
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Join the opening forum of the [AlignMNH Collective](#), an event setting the stage for dialogue, engagement and collective action to align investment and voices in maternal and newborn health communities and drive progress to maternal and newborn health and achieve survival goals.

[Sign up](#) for Align MNH to receive regular updates

The Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Quality of Care Network) works to ensure that every pregnant woman and newborn receives good quality care throughout pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period, with the ambitious goal to halve maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths in health facilities within five years in the participating countries.

The Quality of Care Network is led by countries that are already taking leadership to improve quality of care in health services: Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda. More countries are expected to join the Network. It is backed by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and UNFPA, and supported by a growing partnership of development organisations, NGOs, professional associations and universities.

It is underpinned by the values of quality, equity and dignity and contributes to achieving the targets of the *Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health*.

www.qualityofcarenetwork.org

Contact:

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Top photo: Save the children

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