



World Health
Organization

Standards for improving the quality of care for small and sick newborns



Purpose of the standards as part of the quality of care for small and sick newborns

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Quality of health services: problem magnitude

- **295,000 mothers** and **2.5 million newborns die annually** around the time of childbirth and many are affected by preventable illness; **more than 2 million stillbirths** each year
- **30 million small and sick newborns require access to quality services** every year
- In high-income countries: **1 in 10 patients is harmed** while receiving health care
- In low- and middle-income countries:
 - Nearly **40%** health care facilities **lack running water**
 - Nearly **20%** health care **lack sanitation**
 - Women experience **abuse, lack of respectful compassionate care, and exclusion from care decision-making** during childbirth and in relation to infant care
 - Newborns are exposed to **harmful procedures, lack of respectful care, neglect and separation** from parents in the care process

Review

Highly accessed

Open Access

Facilitators and barriers to facility-based delivery in low- and middle-income countries: a qualitative evidence synthesis

Meghan A Bohren^{1,2*}, Erin C Hunter¹, Heather M Munthe-Kaas³, João Paulo Souza⁴, Joshua P Vogel² and A Metin Gülmezoglu²

The Mistreatment of Women during Childbirth in Health Facilities Globally: A Mixed-Methods Systematic Review

Meghan A. Bohren^{1,2*}, Joshua P. Vogel², Erin C. Hunter³, Olha Lutsiv⁴, Suprita K. Makh⁵, João Paulo Souza⁶, Carolina Aguiar¹, Fernando Saraiva Coneglian⁶, Alex Luiz Araújo Diniz⁶, Özge Tunçalp², Dena Javadi³, Olufemi T. Oladapo², Rajat Khosla², Michelle J. Hindin^{1,2}, A. Metin Gülmezoglu²

WHO vision

“Every woman, newborn, child and adolescent receives quality health services throughout the their life-cycle and level of care continuum”

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www.bjog.org

Commentary

Quality of care for pregnant women and newborns—the WHO vision

Ö Tunçalp,^a WM Were,^b C MacLennan,^b OT Oladapo,^a AM Gülmezoglu,^a R Bahl,^b B Daelmans,^b M Mathai,^b L Say,^a F Kristensen,^c M Temmerman,^a F Bustreo^c



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Continuum of Quality of Care



Quality of Care Framework and Standards of care

Maternal and newborn health



Children and young adolescents



Standards of care for small & sick newborns

- To define, standardize and mainstream inpatient care of small & sick newborns, building on the essential newborn care platform
- To guide countries in caring for this vulnerable population and support quality of care of newborns in the context of the Universal Health Coverage
- Consistent with WHO quality of care framework and quality, equity and dignity initiative





Why were additional standards required?

Existing standards lacked specificity for small and sick newborns

WHO Maternal and newborn standards target time of birth and the first week of life

WHO Paediatric and young adolescents standards lack evidence based interventions for the small and sick newborn

Both documents lack health system requirements and elements of experience of care and rights of small and sick newborns

Development Process

Scoping:

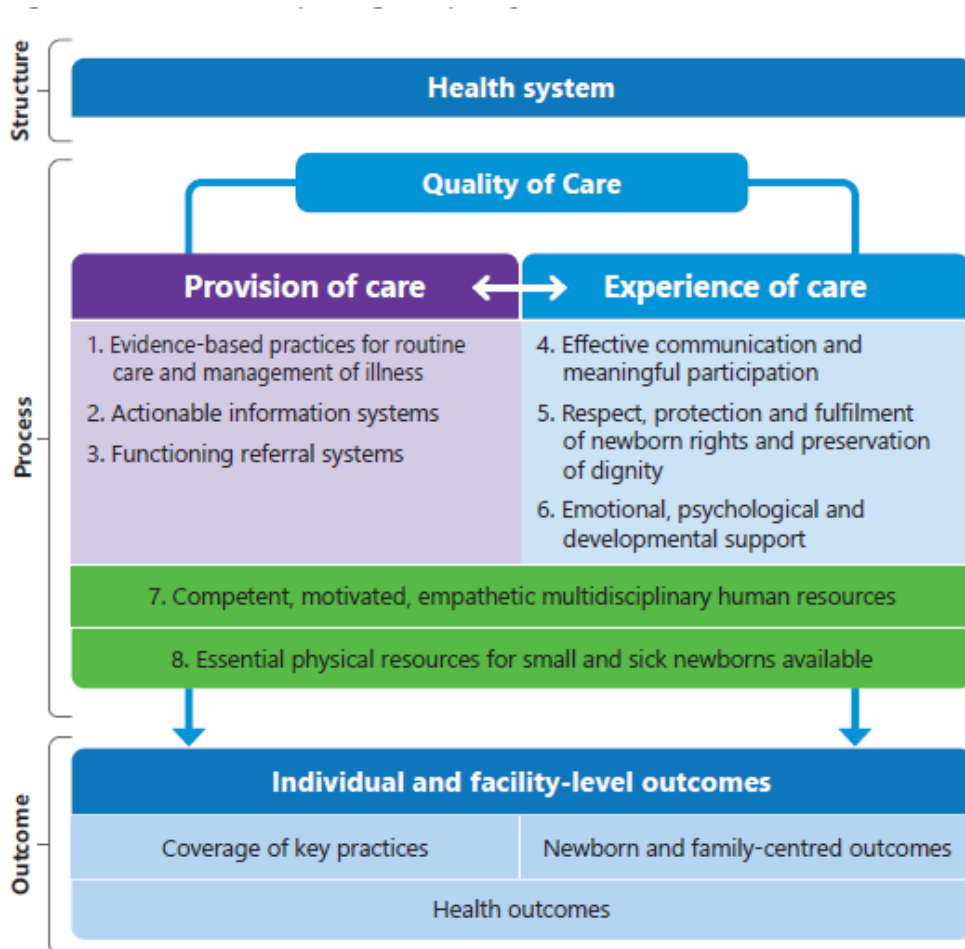
- Literature review and mapping
- Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Drafting and consultations:

- Drafting standard statements
- Two rounds of inputs and revisions
- Drafting of quality measures
- Technical meeting held in 9-11 April 2019
- Standards, quality statements & quality measures revised
- External consultation on quality measures
- Internal WHO consultation: M&E, nutrition, child development, child rights, infection prevention & control

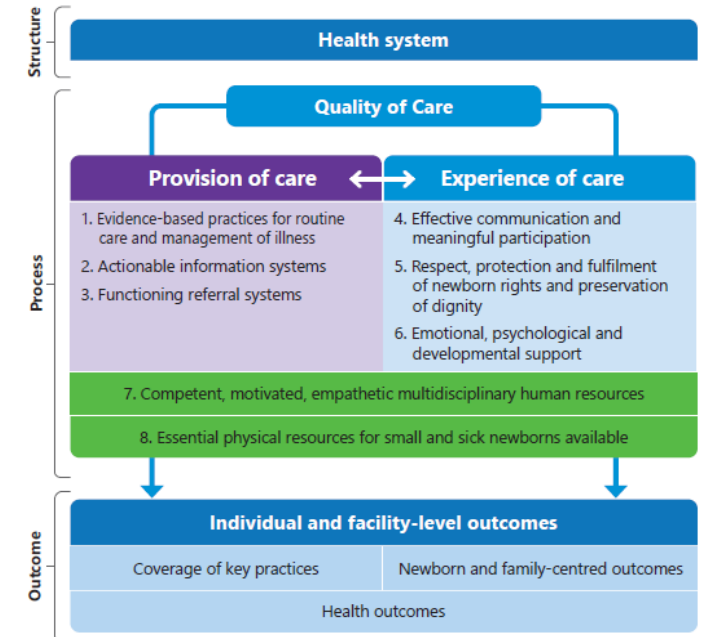
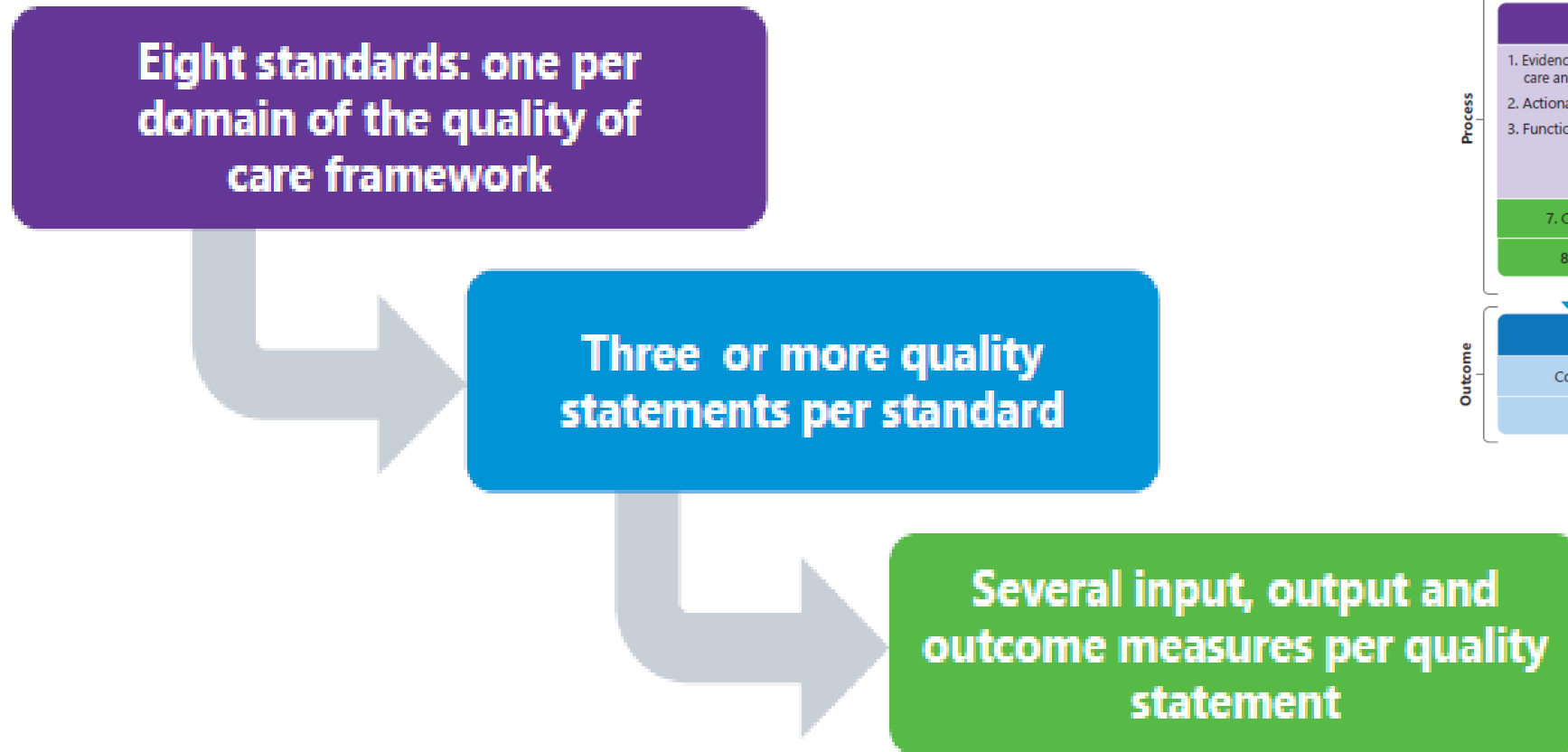
Revisions and finalization

Conceptual framework and scope of the standards



- Applicable to all health facilities offering maternity and newborn care services
- Cover essential care for all newborns and care for newborn who are preterm, low birth weight or sick
- Newborn and family-centred
- Specific for the priority thematic areas identified under eight standard domains

Taxonomy and Structure



Theme: Provision of care



Standard

- 1** Every small and sick newborn receives evidence-based care and management of illness according to WHO guidelines.



Standard

- 2** The health information system enables collection, analysis and use of data to ensure early appropriate action to improve the care of every small and sick newborn.



Standard

- 3** Every small and sick newborn with a condition or conditions that cannot be managed effectively with the available resources receives appropriate, timely referral through integrated newborn service pathways, with continuity of care, including during transport.

The standards place the newborn at the centre of care by improving both the provision and newborns experience of health care for the newborns and their families. They are a critical component for strengthening health systems. They uphold newborn's right to health; the principle of the best interests of the child is the primary consideration throughout the health care services provided. Newborns and their families must receive the highest possible standard of care during health service delivery.

The standards are based on the eight domains of the framework for improving the quality of newborn care and address the most common conditions that affect the quality of care of small and sick newborns in health facilities.

STANDARDS FOR NEWBORN CARE



Theme: Experience of care



Standard

- 4** Communication with small and sick newborns and their families is effective, with meaningful participation, and responds to their needs and preferences, and parental involvement is encouraged and supported throughout the care pathway.



Standard

- 5** Newborns' rights are respected, protected and fulfilled without discrimination, with preservation of dignity at all times and in all settings during care, transport and follow-up.



Standard

- 6** All small and sick newborns are given developmentally supportive care and follow-up, and their families receive emotional and psychosocial support that is sensitive to their needs and strengthens

Theme: Health system resources



Standard

- 7** For every small and sick newborn, competent, motivated, empathetic, multidisciplinary staff are consistently available to provide routine care, manage complications and provide developmental and psychological support throughout the care pathway.



Standard

- 8** The health facility has an appropriate physical environment, with adequate water, sanitation, waste management, energy supply, medicines, medical supplies and equipment for routine care and management of complications in small and sick newborns.