



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

## Updates – November 2020



### Engaging stakeholders and communities in quality of care initiatives for maternal, newborn and child health

#### *New resources for quality improvement policy-makers and implementers*

The World Health Organization and UNICEF released a [module](#) and a [mapping of tools](#) to guide policy makers and programme implementers working in Quality Improvement in Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, in making comprehensive and meaningful stakeholder and community engagement an integral part of quality improvement (QI) initiatives.

This module compliments the implementation guide developed by the Network for Improving Quality of care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Quality of Care Network).

The Quality of Care Network considers stakeholder and community engagement as one of the 'core systems' required for quality improvement and has included it in the implementation guide for quality improvement. [Read more](#)

#### INTEGRATING STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN QUALITY OF CARE INITIATIVES FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH



A module of the "Improving the quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health - Implementation guide for national, district and facility levels"

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Last webinar in a series on *Delivering quality essential maternal, newborn, and child health services during COVID-19*

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Disruptions in care seeking and access to quality health care for children at primary health facilities and in communities increase children's risk of severe illness and death. How do countries ensure safe continuation of child health services during COVID-19? How were case management algorithms and patient flow adapted and re-organized, infection control measures implemented, PPE and uninterrupted supplies ensured? How were children screened for COVID-19 while continuing routine case management for common childhood illnesses? Did approaches differ based on local transmission of COVID-19?

During this webinar, we will hear practical examples and experiences on how two countries, Uganda and Senegal, adapted and implemented changes in integrated community case management (iCCM) and Integrated Management of newborn and childhood illness (IMNCI) to provide continued quality care for young children.

[Read more and register](#)

### **New webinar series: Lessons from improving quality of care during COVID-19**

### [REGISTER](#)

The COVID outbreak has tested health systems' ability to maintain essential services and to provide quality care for maternal, newborn and child health. Quality improvement teams, typically working through quick cycles of solution testing, with a positive improvement mindset and an imperative to share learning, have demonstrated agency, nimbleness and adaptability during this crisis.

This webinar series will share examples of quality improvement initiatives that have adapted to respond to the challenges of providing quality maternal, newborn and child health care during the pandemic. The series is organized by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, in collaboration with the World Health Organization.

[Register for the next webinar](#) on 3 December 2020 at 10 am GMT, 3.30 pm India Standard Time, 4 pm Bangladesh Standard Time:  
**Lesson #2: Adapt and innovate to support Quality Improvement Teams – Examples from India and Bangladesh**

[Learn more about the series](#)



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UNICEF/UN076864/Sharma.

## Manyata: Sustaining quality assurance accreditation for maternal health Care in India's private sector

**MANYATA: SUSTAINING QUALITY ASSURANCE ACCREDITATION FOR MATERNAL HEALTH CARE IN INDIA'S PRIVATE SECTOR**  
**WEBINAR - THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2020, AT 2PM IST, 8.30 AM GMT**

Part of a series on Engaging the private sector for quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health

**REGISTER** and add to your calendar  
**WATCH LIVE** on YouTube  
**REQUEST** to join the Quality of Care community of practice

Despite one in every three facility births occurring in private facilities in India, efforts to improve the quality of maternal health around the time of birth have largely focused on public health facilities in the country.

Manyata, a certification programme with both quality improvement and assurance components, is designed to strengthen quality of maternal health services in private facilities. Since its launch in 2013, Manyata has developed a viable business model for quality assurance and laid the groundwork for sustainable quality improvement efforts in the private maternal health care sector in India. The programme, now in its third phase, is implemented in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Maharashtra by Jhpiego and in Rajasthan, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu by other partners.

This webinar will share Manyata's approach to initiate a private sector endeavour and develop a successful public-private partnership for quality of care, the value it provided for private providers to invest in quality of care, and its plan to expand its activities to other states. A representative of the Government of Maharashtra will also explain how the state government plays a critical role to ensure private facilities adopt standards of care under the LaQshya-Manyata initiative.

**Speakers:**

- Dr. Archana Patil, Government of Maharashtra – Director Health Services, Government of Maharashtra, India
- Dr. Bulbul Sood, Jhpiego – Country Director, Jhpiego India Country Office
- Dr. Nandita Palshetkar, FOGSI – President, the Association of Maharashtra Obstetrics and Gynaecological Societies (AMOGS)
- Ms. Pompy Sridhar, MSD for Mothers- Director-India, MSD for Mothers

This is the third webinar in a series on Engaging the private sector for quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health, co-hosted by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the World Health Organization.

[See the whole series and register](#)

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



Join a webinar on Thursday 12 November, at 8.30 am GMT, 2pm IST

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

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[Read more and register](#)

This is the third webinar in a series on Engaging the private sector for quality of care for maternal and newborn health. [Read more about the series](#) and [a new Quality of Care Network and WHO project](#) exploring mechanisms to engage the private sector in delivering maternal and newborn health services with quality.

Photo: © UNICEF/UNI173763/Altaf Qadri

## New podcast episode: COVID-19 lockdown & pregnancy complications: Lessons from Nepal on providing quality intrapartum care in extraordinary times

A recent study conducted in Nepal assessed the indirect impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on the quality of intrapartum care that women received in health facilities. The [study](#), published in The Lancet, looks at the implications of a reduced access to care, but also at the gaps in the quality of the care provided.

Dr. Ashish K.C, who led the study, is a perinatal epidemiologist and a researcher specializing in quality of care, based in the Department of Women's and Children's Health, University of Uppsala, Sweden. He tells us about the study's findings, their implications during the COVID-19 lockdown, and how health workers have developed solutions to provide quality intrapartum care even under extraordinary circumstances.

[Listen](#) to the episode and [subscribe](#)



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Save the date: Wednesday November 18, 8-10am EST

**AlignMNH: Collective Action for Maternal Newborn Health**, a new initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and in collaboration with USAID, is a response to the urgent need to accelerate progress toward improved maternal and newborn outcomes.

Shaped by country engagement and priorities, AlignMNH will serve to amplify existing efforts; more rapidly disseminate emerging evidence and science; fuel country-led coordinated advocacy and action; identify, translate and curate learning that is actionable and accessible to guide program implementation; and promote mutual accountability.

The AlignMNH platform will promote opportunities to work across countries to share learning, identify challenges, generate solutions and celebrate progress.

[Join the mailing list](#) now to receive an invitation to the launch.

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](http://www.qualityofcarenetwork.org)

**Contact:**

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

[www.qualityofcarenetwork.org](http://www.qualityofcarenetwork.org)

Benedicte Walter, World Health Organization Headquarters consultant

[walterb@who.int](mailto:walterb@who.int)

Top photo: Mother and Child bonding, Kaabong Hospital, Uganda, April 2019.. © UNICEF/UN0306366/Abdul;

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