



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

**Updates - September 2021**

## Ghana's National Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Forum

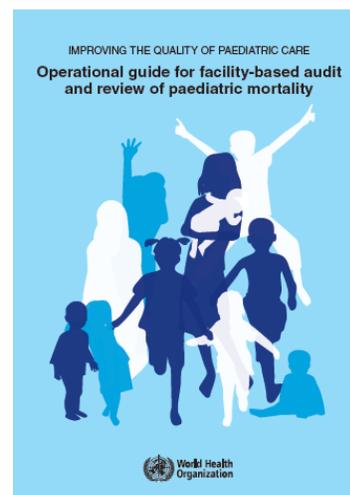


The Ministry of Health of Ghana with the support of partners hosted the third National Patient Safety and Healthcare Quality Conference from 15 to 17 September 2021. With the theme 'No Quality, no coverage – Safe maternal and newborn care now!', sessions over the 3 days were titled under 'Safety at the point of care', 'Community engagement in advancing the quality of care', and 'Policy and programme approaches to quality and patient safety'. The materials from the meeting will shortly be made available on the Network website. In the coming weeks, the Network Secretariat will host a National Forum webinar with the MoH of Ghana to share the outcome of discussions at the National Forum including the challenges overcome, practical solutions and lessons learned in implementing and scaling-up quality of care for MNH.

## Learning workshop: Expanding the implementation of Paediatric Death Audit and Mortality Review in the African Region

The WHO Regional Office for Africa with the support of UNICEF, Momentum Country and Global Leadership, and USAID organized a learning workshop for 17 countries in the African Region from 7 to 9 September 2021. The purpose was to advance the use of paediatric death audits and mortality review to improve the quality of care for child health services. 17 countries participated: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Countries shared experiences and emerging lessons from implementation and developed national plans of action for implementation.

Access the Operational guide for facility-based audit and review of paediatric mortality [here](#)



## Virtual workshop: Building capacity within the African region for National Quality Policy and Strategy

The Quality of Care Unit in the WHO Department of Integrated Health Services and the WHO Regional Office for Africa organized a two half-day virtual meeting on quality of care on September 28 & 29 2021. The meeting titled *Building Capacity within the African Region for National Quality Policy and Strategy* was attended by over 500 participants across the 47 countries in the WHO Africa Region. The first day of the v-workshop allowed countries to hear about technical resources and support opportunities available to countries on quality of care. The second day was designed for countries who have embarked on setting a national strategic direction on quality to share their experience widely, building on an initial meeting of this 8-country cohort back in 2019. Participants at the meeting included Ministries of Health, WHO Country Offices, and individuals with an interest in quality of care in the African Region. WHO AFRO is developing a short meeting report from the deliberations that will be available shortly.

## Upcoming launch in October 2021



WHO and UNFPA and partners invites you to the

## Launch of the Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality (EPMM) coverage targets and milestones to 2025

Tuesday 5 October 2021

2:00-3:30 pm CET, 12:00-1:30 pm GMT, 8:00-9:30 am EST

Join the global virtual launch of the Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality (EPMM) coverage targets and milestones to 2025 which have been developed to support countries with setting interim targets and milestones to 2025 toward accelerating progress to meet the Sustainable Development Goal 3.1 to reduce maternal mortality in all countries.

Register [here](#) to join

## New resources

## Thematic brief: *Nurturing care for every newborn*

On 23 September 2021, WHO, UNICEF and partners launched the **Thematic brief: *Nurturing care for every newborn*** in an event hosted by the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, the Quality of Care subgroup of the Child Health Taskforce and the ECD Action Network. See the [webinar recording](#).

This Thematic Brief summarizes why nurturing care is essential for all newborns and five components of nurturing care set out what every newborn needs to survive, to thrive and to reach their full human potential. The brief includes practical examples of creating nurturing environments for newborns, including those who are born too soon, small or sick.

You can access the brief [here](#).

## Scientific Brief on COVID-19 in children and adolescents

SARS-CoV-2 infections among children and adolescents cause less severe illness and fewer deaths compared to adults. While a less severe course of infection is a positive outcome, there are concerns that mild symptoms may have led to less testing, resulting in fewer identified cases of COVID-19 in children.

This Scientific Brief summarizes the current knowledge around SARS-CoV-2 infection acquisition and transmission and COVID-19 disease symptoms in children and adolescents. It aims to inform decisions, based on local contexts, on how to best keep schools, kindergarten and day-care facilities open and what advice to apply to intergenerational mixing.

You can find the brief [here](#).

## Call for sharing documents and tools on the topic of the experience of or satisfaction with newborn care

**Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

WHO's Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing has commissioned a scoping review in order to better understand and standardize the different dimensions of experience and satisfaction with newborn care. A paper will be developed that compiles and summarizes measurement tools and indicators that can help guide research and action for respectful care of newborns.

While efforts have been placed towards improving women and newborns' experience of care and to ensuring respectful person-centered care during childbirth, there is still no agreement on what constitutes the experience of newborn care. This review will build on the extensive work done to capture women's experiences during maternity care and will complement it by assessing tools and indicators to measure experience of newborn care, and satisfaction with care during the postnatal period.

Please share any literature, including academic articles, white papers, (project) reports, measurement tools or topic guides, etc., covering issues related to experience of or satisfaction with newborn care, including mistreatment of the newborn. Such materials that were published after 2010 can be emailed to [minckasn@who.int](mailto:minckasn@who.int). For more information on the review and the concepts under study, you can access the full protocol by clicking [here](#).

## Network September webinars in review

All recordings and presentations from the Network webinars are available on the Network website at [this link](#). Our recent webinars in September 2021 are available by clicking the link:

- [Launch of the MPDSR materials to support implementation](#)
- [Nurturing care for every newborn: ensuring every newborn survives and thrives](#)
- [Advancing community engagement for quality maternal and newborn health - An example from Bangladesh](#)

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 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)

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