



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

Updates - March 2022

Join the Quality of Care Network at AlignMNH April 2022 Collective

Quality of Care Track Session: Improving Quality of Care for impact

Date: Wednesday, 6 April 2022

Time: 7:00 – 8:15AM EST, 1:00 – 2:15PM CET/SAST, 4:30 – 5:45PM IST

In this Global Town Hall, quality of care leaders, policy-makers, implementing partners and researchers will share their experiences and learning in their efforts to improve quality of care for maternal and newborn health, and developing quality systems to support implementation.

Moderator

Dr Anshu Banerjee, Director, Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, WHO Geneva

Keynote: Dr Amy Pollack, Director, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Speakers:

- Matron Margaret Mannah, Manager, Quality Directorate, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone
- Dr Gagan Gupta, Senior Adviser Maternal and Newborn Health, UNICEF
- Professor Grace Irimu, Head of Department, Pediatric and Child Health, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Dr Mike English Oxford, Kenya Medical Research Institute/Wellcome Trust Research Programme
- Dr Kathleen Hill, Senior Technical Advisor for Quality, Jhpiego and the USAID Momentum Country and Global Leadership program

See more & [REGISTER](#) for the three days session: Monday, 4 April 2022 - Wednesday, 6 April 2022

Join AlignMNH for a 3-day virtual collective, Monday, April 4 – Wednesday, April 6, featuring global and country level experts in maternal and newborn health. The April 2022 Collective is a seminal moment for the maternal and newborn health (MNH) community. It will mark one year until the [International Maternal](#)

Newborn Health Conference (IMNHC) in May 2023, which will bring together thousands of stakeholders for the first time since the 2015 Global Maternal Newborn Health Conference took place in Mexico City, Mexico. [Learn more.](#)

For more information, visit www.alignmnh.org

JOIN US FOR A 3-DAY VIRTUAL COLLECTIVE

 **APRIL 2022**
COLLECTIVE
hosted by AlignMNH



4 APRIL
TRACKING
PROGRESS



5 APRIL
RESPECTFUL
CARE



6 APRIL
QUALITY OF
CARE & IMNHC
LAUNCH EVENT

REGISTER:
bit.ly/april22collective

Upcoming launch events in April 2022



ESSENTIAL NEWBORN CARE COURSE SECOND EDITION (2022)
Launch of the interim version

SAVE THE DATE:
MONDAY, 11 APRIL 2022
7.30am New York, 1.30pm Geneva, 2.30pm Nairobi, 5pm New Delhi

REGISTER HERE

NEW FEATURES OF THE SECOND EDITION OF ENCC:

- Focuses on the foundation for the essential care of every newborn and rights of newborns, nurturing care, and strengthened links to care in the community.
- Integrate existing newborn courses from around the world such as WHO Early Essential Newborn Care coaching, as well as Helping Babies Breathe and Helping Babies Survive.
- Based on competencies and is flexible to be used for both in-service and pre-service settings, different course options.
- Educational methodologies incorporate active learning and structured simulations.
- Encourages collection, analysis and use of data in quality improvement activities focused on essential newborn care.
- Is part of a set of resources for improving the care of newborns, such as WHO Human Resource Strategies for improving newborn care health facilities and WHO Standards.

Part 1: Welcome and Introduction
Part 2: Opening remarks and official launch of the ENCC materials
Part 3: Overview of the ENCC course: What's new?
Part 4: Questions & Answers
Part 5: Panel discussion
Part 6: Next steps and closing remarks

 World Health Organization

Essential Newborn Care Course Second Edition (2022): *Launch of the interim version*

Monday, 11 April 2022

7.30am New York, 1.30pm Geneva, 2.30pm Nairobi, 5pm New Delhi (Duration: 1h30mins)

[REGISTER](#) and add to your calendar

The World Health Organization in collaboration with partners are developing the second edition of the Essential Newborn Care Course (ENCC). The material provides the foundation for the essential care of every newborn: immediate care at birth, resuscitation when needed, breast milk feeding, thermal care, prevention of infection, recognition and response to danger signs.

This course is part of a set of WHO resources for improving care of newborns; [Human Resource Strategies to improve newborn care in health facilities in low- and middle-income countries](#), [Standards for improving quality of maternal and newborn care in health facilities](#) and the [Standards for improving the quality of care for small and sick newborns in health facilities](#).

The second edition of ENCC is competency-based with new features & can be used for both in-service and pre-service settings, different course options, aligned with WHO standards with focus on the rights of newborns, nurturing care, and strengthened links to care in the community. The course materials encourage collection, analysis and use of data in quality improvement activities focused on essential newborn care. Educational methodologies incorporate active learning and structured simulations. The materials integrate existing newborn courses such as WHO Early Essential Newborn Care coaching and Helping Babies Breathe and Helping Babies Survive, which have been updated and aligned with WHO guidelines.

WHO, UNICEF and partners were able to conduct limited field testing with users due to travel and meeting restrictions during COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, this version is released as an interim version for field testing in various settings, countries and regions in order to finalize and publish the 2nd edition of ENCC later in 2022.

Save the date: Launch of Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response Capacity Building materials

Tuesday, 12 April 2022

8am New York, 2pm Geneva, 5.30pm New Delhi

[REGISTER](#) and add to your calendar

Details will be shared later.

Save the date: Launch of the WHO Essential Childbirth Care Course: A course of the new WHO Interprofessional Midwifery Education Toolkit

Wednesday, 27 April 2022

8am New York, 2pm Geneva, 5.30pm New Delhi

[REGISTER](#) and add to your calendar

Too few midwives and other health professionals are getting the education and training they need to provide quality, respectful care to pregnant women and their newborns & women needing family planning, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, safe or post abortion care, including perinatal mental health support. A key solution is to invest in the transformation of midwifery education through the first global Interprofessional Midwifery Education Toolkit. The “Toolkit” will bring together in one place education and training materials for maternal, newborn, sexual, reproductive and perinatal mental health for midwives, and others providing elements of midwifery care. The Essential Childbirth Care Course (ECBC) is focused on the midwifery model of care, which puts women, newborns and their families at the center, ensures continuity of care, and prevents unnecessary interventions, yet ensures lifesaving actions.

Join the launch on April 27th to learn about the Essential Childbirth Care Course – find out how it is a leap forward from previous education and training courses, what midwives and others think about it, and how you can access the materials.

New Publications

WHO recommendations on maternal and newborn care for a positive postnatal experience

Most maternal and infant deaths occur in the first six weeks after childbirth, yet this remains a neglected time. Women and newborns require support and careful monitoring after birth.

On 30 March 2022, the World Health Organization launched the first global guidance on maternal and newborn care for positive postnatal experience. These new recommendations stress on urgency of both physical and mental health support in postnatal period. This guideline aims to improve the quality of essential, routine postnatal care for women and newborns with the ultimate goal of improving maternal and newborn health and well-being. It recognizes a “positive postnatal experience” as a significant end point for all women giving birth and their newborns, laying the platform for improved short- and long-term health and well-being.



A positive postnatal experience is defined as one in which women, newborns, partners, parents, caregivers and families receive information, reassurance and support in a consistent manner from

motivated health workers; where a resourced and flexible health system recognizes the needs of women and babies and respects their cultural context.

This is a consolidated guideline of new and existing recommendations on routine postnatal care for women and newborns receiving facility- or community-based postnatal care in any resource setting.

Access the new WHO guidelines on: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240045989>
Read more on the [WHO website](#)

WHO/HRP special supplement on understanding mistreatment of women during childbirth to improve quality of care

A special WHO and HRP supplement was recently published by BMJ Global Health on women's experiences of mistreatment during childbirth. This supplement reiterates the need for high quality facility-based care that is respectful and people centered, as women across the world are still facing unacceptable mistreatment during childbirth. This experience is deeply affecting women's trust in facility-based care, has grave future health implications and can put the lives of women at risk.

Read the supplement on: https://gh.bmj.com/content/5/Suppl_2

More information available on the [WHO website](#).

Network March webinars in review

The recordings and presentations from the Network webinars in March 2022 are available by clicking the link:

- [Addressing inequalities through the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response system: Lessons learned from Sierra Leone](#)
- [Improving the quality of nutrition maternal, newborn and child health services: Global resources, opportunities & lessons from Ethiopia](#)
- [Accountability for quality maternal, newborn and child health services in Malawi; integration of facility inspections.](#)

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

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