

Standards for improving the quality of care for small and sick newborns in health facilities



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Definitions and terms

Carer, caregiver	Parent, family member or any other person responsible for the care of a child.
Child	A person under the age of 18 years.
Developmental supportive care	A broad category of interventions designed to minimize the stress of a neonatal intensive care unit. Strategies include control of external stimuli (vestibular, auditory, visual, tactile), clustering of nursery care activities and minimal handling, intentional positioning (nesting, prone position, swaddling) and protection of sleep.
Emergency care area	A designated room or unit in a facility where immediate care and resuscitation are provided for severe or sudden illness, trauma or injury.
Family	In this document, “family” is broadly construed to comprise relatives by blood, adoption or marriage and members of the same household.
Family-centred care	An approach to health care that is respectful of and responsive to individual families’ needs and values. ¹ The eight principles for patient-centred and family-centred care for newborns in a neonatal intensive care unit are: parental access with no limitation due to staff shift or medical rounds, psychological support for parents, pain management, a supportive environment, parental support, skin-to-skin contact, support for breastfeeding and lactation and protection of sleep. ²
Guideline	Rule or instruction on the best way of doing something.
Health professional or provider	A trained individual with knowledge and skills to provide preventive, curative, promotional or rehabilitative health care in a systematic way to people, families and communities. They include doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and paramedical staff.
Infant	A child < 1 year of age.
Kangaroo mother care	Early, continuous, prolonged skin-to-skin contact between a mother and her newborn, frequent and exclusive breastfeeding and early discharge from hospital.
Newborn	Infant < 1 month of age (neonate).
Protocol	A set of rules/procedures to be followed when giving medical treatment.
Quality measure	Criterion for assessing, measuring and monitoring the quality of care as specified in a quality statement.
Quality statement	A concise statement of what is required to ensure measurable quality of care.
Sick newborn	Newborn with any medical or surgical condition.
Small newborn	Newborn weighing < 2500 g at birth (includes preterm and low-birth-weight newborns).
Standard	A general statement of what is expected to be provided to ensure high-quality care for newborns.
Standard operating procedure	Established or prescribed method to be followed routinely in the performance of designated operations or in designated situations.
Young infant	Infant < 2 months of age.

¹ Davidson JE, Aslakson RE, Long AC, Puntillo KA, Kross EK, Hart J, et al. Guidelines for family-centered care in the neonatal, pediatric, and adult ICU. *Crit Care Med.* 2017;45(1):103–28.

² Roué JM, Kuhn P, Lopez Maestro M, Maastrup RA, Mitanchez D, Westrup B, et al. Eight principles for patient-centred and family-centred care for newborns in the neonatal intensive care unit. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonat.* 2017;102:F364–8.



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