



## Introducing and sustaining EENC in hospitals: Kangaroo Mother Care for preterm and low-birthweight infants





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Kangaroo Mother Care  
for preterm and low-birthweight infants

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ISBN 978 92 9061 858 4

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*Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) data.* 1. Infant, Low Birth Weight. 2. Infant care. 3. Kangaroo-Mother Care Method. I. World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific. (NLM Classification: WS420)

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# Foreword

The World Health Organization, Member States and stakeholders in the Western Pacific Region share a vision for mothers and their children: that every newborn infant has the right to a healthy start in life. Sadly, every two minutes, death comes too quickly – and often needlessly – to a newborn infant in the Region.

Together, we have taken bold steps to make childbirth and newborn life safer. Member States endorsed the *Action Plan for Healthy Newborn Infants in the Western Pacific Region (2014–2020)*. The plan aims to improve the quality of care for mothers and babies in health facilities, where the vast majority of children in the Region are born.

We offer five teaching modules of Early Essential Newborn Care, or EENC, starting with the *Early Essential Newborn Care Clinical Practice Pocket Guide*. Countries have already shown that reductions in newborn deaths, infections and intensive care unit admissions are possible in facilities employing EENC.

This volume, *Introducing and sustaining EENC in hospitals: Kangaroo Mother Care for pre-term and low-birthweight infants*, is the fourth module to guide and accelerate EENC health provider practices in facilities across the Region.

These modules are critical components of the regional plan of sustained action and strong policies utilizing proven methods for saving money and lives. Governments, health-care facilities and families are already saving precious resources, making health systems more accountable and quality care more attainable.

We must push to meet the ambitious but reachable targets of the Sustainable Development Goals: a global maternal mortality ratio of less than 70 per 100 000 live births with no country above 140; and neonatal mortality rates of less than 12 per 1000 births.

To reach these lofty goals, we must work together with Member States and partners to bring high-quality EENC to all mothers and newborn infants in every corner of the Western Pacific Region.



Shin Young-soo, MD, Ph.D.  
Regional Director



## ABOUT THE EARLY ESSENTIAL NEWBORN CARE MODULES

The five Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) modules support planning, implementation, improvement, and monitoring and evaluation of EENC.

Module	Title	Primary user level
1	Annual implementation review and planning guide	National and subnational
2	Coaching for the First Embrace: Facilitator's Guide	National and subnational facilitators
3	Introducing and sustaining EENC in hospitals: Routine childbirth and newborn care	Hospitals with national support for scale-up
▶ 4	<i>Introducing and sustaining EENC in hospitals: Kangaroo Mother Care for preterm and low-birthweight infants</i>	
5	Introducing and sustaining EENC in hospitals: Managing childbirth and postpartum complications	

**Module 1** is used at the national and subnational levels to collect data for the development of annual implementation plans and five-year national action plans. National and subnational facilitators use **Module 2** to upgrade skills of health workers involved in the management of routine childbirth and newborn care nationwide. In hospitals, EENC teams are formed to regularly assess quality of care and use of data for action using **Module 3**.

- ▶ Once excellent routine childbirth and newborn care are well established, coaching and quality of care follow-up are added for Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) for preterm and low-birthweight infants in **Module 4**.

Management of childbirth and postpartum complications are treated in **Module 5**.



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