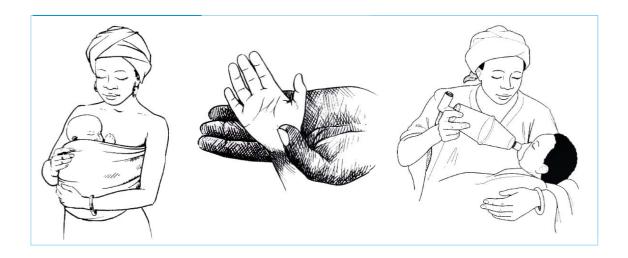
IMPROVING PAEDIATRIC CARE



IMPROVING PAEDIATRIC REFERRAL CARE IN THE CONTEXT OF CHILD SURVIVAL ACTIVITIES AND IMCI

Review of processes to improve paediatric care in small hospitals in developing countries

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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REVIEW OF PROCESSES TO IMPROVE PAEDIATRIC CARE IN SMALL HOSPITALS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Denpasar, Indonesia 15–19 January 2007

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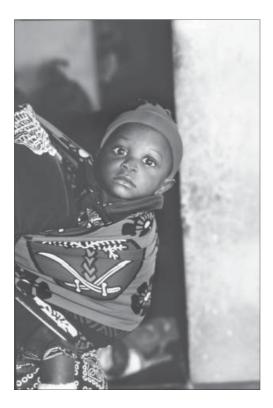
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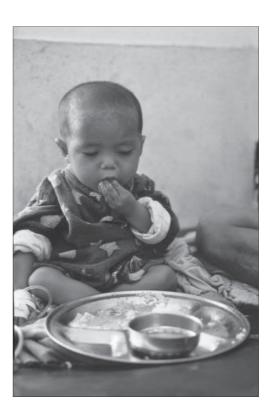
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Abbreviations

- AAP American Academy of Pediatrics
- AIIMS All-India Institute of Medical Sciences
- APLS Advanced Paediatric Life Support
- AusAID Australian Agency for International Development
- **BFHI** Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative
- CAH Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (WHO)
- **CCP** Critical Care Pathways
- **DFID** United Kingdom Department for International Development
- EMONC Emergency Obstetric Neonatal Course
- ENBCC WHO Essential Newborn Care Course
- **ESS-EMCH** Essential Surgical Skills Emergency Maternal and Child Health-care Programme
- **ETAT** Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment
- Global Health Diagnostics Forum
- **GTZ** Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Society for Technical Cooperation)
- **HIV** Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- HPSR Health Policy and Systems Research
- ICHRC International Child Health Review Collaboration
- IFMSA International Federation of Medical Student Associations
- IMCI Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (WHO/UNICEF)
- IMNCI Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illness
- IPA International Pediatric Association
- ISTP International Society of Tropical Paediatrics
- IUATLD International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
- NIH US National Institutes of Health
- NNC/TL Neonatal Nursing Course, Timor Leste
- NRP, AAP Newborn Resuscitation Programme, AAP
- PALS Pediatric Advanced Life Support
- PHI Paediatric Hospital Improvement
- QAP Quality Assurance Project
- Quality Improvement
- RCT Randomized Controlled Trial
- SWAp Sector-wide Approach
- TALC Teaching Aids at Low Cost
- UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund
- WHO World Health Organization

Executive summary

The Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) strategy adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) seeks to strengthen prevention and care for children through appropriate community and household care, primary care, referral practices and care at the first-level hospital. If the current guidelines are followed, it is estimated that about 10–20% of sick children presenting for primary care, i.e. the most severely ill, require treatment at a first-referral or district hospital. Therefore, the quality of care provided in these hospitals is likely to have a major impact on the health and lives of millions of children each year.

Unfortunately, there is evidence that hospital care is often deficient in many countries. A key study of 21 hospitals across seven countries in Africa and Asia showed that more than half of the children were undertreated or inappropriately treated with antibiotics, fluids, feeding practices or oxygen. Lack of triage and inadequate assessment, late treatment, inadequate drug supplies, poor knowledge of treatment guidelines and insufficient monitoring of sick children were key adverse factors observed. Further hospital assessment exercises supported by WHO and other agencies over the past years have found similar deficiencies in countries including Cambodia, Eritrea, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Nicaragua, Niger, the Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and the United Republic of Tanzania. In spite of this evidence, improving hospital care for children has not received much attention so far within the package of interventions to improve child survival.

To review experiences with these processes to improve hospital care for newborns and children in low income countries, WHO organized a meeting in January 2007 in Denpasar, Indonesia, bringing together more than 60 participants from 24 countries. During this five-day meeting, a generic framework for improving hospital care for children in developing countries and an assessment tool were reviewed and endorsed. Approaches for quality improvement training were outlined, the role of self-assessment was

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