Strengthening Lactation Support For Small and Sick Newborns
A global training curriculum for lactation, nursing, nutrition, and milk bank staff in maternal and neonatal units.

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INTRODUCTION

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PROPRIORITIZING PROVISION OF SKILLED LACTATION SUPPORT FOR SMALL AND SICK NEWBORNS.

- 98% of neonatal deaths happen in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
- Small and sick newborns (SSN) account for most neonatal deaths.
- SSN: infants born < 37 weeks gestation, small for gestational age, < 2,500 g birth weight, and require hospitalization
- World Health Organization (WHO) published guidance on unique nutrition and lactation needs for SSN and their parents, but not how to provide specialized care

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a globally adaptable training program to increase providers’ knowledge about lactation and feeding for SSN
2. Create evaluation checklists to verify staff skills and knowledge

METHODS

- Reviewed clinical protocols, WHO publications, and peer-reviewed research to choose module topics
  - i.e. Initiating Expression, Donor Human Milk, Psychological Support, and Direct Breastfeeding
- Researched change management strategies to optimize adoption
- Drafted 14 learning modules and evaluation checklists

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

THE TRAINING CURRICULUM CONSISTS 14 ACTIVE LEARNING MODULES AND 14 COMPETENCY EVALUATION CHECKLISTS

Each module in the training guide consists of five main components:

1. Overview of learning objectives, key concepts and lesson time
2. Content section with video, text, and graphics
3. Links to additional resources for staff and parents
4. Activity to practice key concepts and protocols
5. Evaluation checklist to verify staff knowledge and competency

DISCUSSION

IMPROVED HUMAN MILK FEEDING AND HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR SSN DEPEND ON APPROPRIATELY TRAINED STAFF

- One barrier to successful breastfeeding is staff who are misinformed and/or practice without evidence-based protocols
- Training educates staff and help establish new protocols
  - WHO Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative training positively impacted nurses’ knowledge, attitudes, and confidence about breastfeeding
- Training participants will receive advanced-practice skills and knowledge specific human milk feeding for SSN & parents
- Next steps: expert panel review, implementation in Kenya

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 References