Maternal and Newborn Health Quality of Care Facility Assessment: An mHealth Mobile Toolkit

by: MCHIP MNH-QoC Team

Background

- USAID’s flagship Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) is working to contribute to the reduction of frequent, preventable maternal and newborn deaths through increased quality of known life-saving interventions in USAID priority countries facing the highest disease burden.
- MCHIP has developed a Maternal and Newborn Health Quality of Care (MNH QoC) Toolkit—consisting of five mobile, electronic data-entry tools for assessing the quality of services provided in hospitals and health facilities. These are primarily checklist tools for observing health worker performance related to services provided for labor and delivery and essential newborn care. The tools are designed to capture health worker responses to spontaneous complications, such as pre-eclampsia/eclampsia (PE/E) or postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), two of the leading causes of maternal death.
- As of November 2010, MCHIP MNH QoC assessments have been conducted in five African countries, providing baseline data for quality improvement activities for maternal and newborn care at facility, regional and national levels.

Sampling Frame of Facilities by Country

- Ethiopia: All facilities with at least five deliveries per day (19)
- Rwanda: All national referral and district hospitals and one health center/maternity from each district (73)
- Tanzania: 11 regional hospitals and 42 health centers/dispensaries in these regions
- Kenya: 400+ facilities with delivery services
- Madagascar: 36 facilities with 2+ deliveries per day

Proportion of Women Receiving Active Management of the Third Stage of Labor

Proportion of Newborns Receiving Essential Newborn Care

Results

- Specific needs for effective interventions for screening, prevention and treatment of obstetric and newborn complications are being identified as results come in from the MNH QoC assessments.
- Mobile phones have improved the quality of data and expedited the timeliness of results reporting. The two bar charts on this poster present some of the early findings from Ethiopia and Tanzania on Essential Newborn Care and AMTSL (Active Management of the Third Stage of Labor).
- Improving the quality of facility-based care to prevent and treat frequent maternal and newborn complications is important to reducing maternal and newborn deaths globally and for assisting countries in meeting their targets for MDGs 4 and 5.

Proportion of Newborns Receiving Essential Newborn Care

- Places skin-to-skin
- Immediately dries
- Covers with dry towel
- Cuts cord, ties/clamps*
- Helps initiate breastfeeding
- Mean percent score

- In Ethiopia: cuts and ties/clamps cord, protecting newborn from blade; in Tanzania: cuts cord with clean blade

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