

## Improving Quality of Care for Better Newborn and Children Health

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**Received:** November 11, 2017; **Published:** November 20, 2017

Quality of care is defined by the extent of maternal and newborn health services set to improve desired health outcomes by applying current professional expertise and meeting the expectations of individuals and their families.

Increasing the numbers of births in health facilities will lead to an increase in skilled birth attendance. With this increase there will be a rise in preventable maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in health facilities. This can be fulfilled through maximizing coverage and apply ten ways to improve the quality of maternal and newborn care in health facilities. As a start, pregnant women should receive the right care, at the right times, newborns should receive essential care immediately after birth, small and sick babies should be well cared for by a well-trained and motivated staff, all women and newborns must receive care that prevents hospital-acquired infections, health facilities must have an appropriate physical environment, communication with women and their families must be effective and respond to their needs, women and newborns who need referrals should obtain them without delay, no woman should be subjected to harmful practices during labour, childbirth, and the early postnatal period, and lastly every woman and newborn should have a complete, accurate, and standardized medical record.

Routine vaccines provided for babies and children is the most effective and safe way to protect them from contracting severe contagious diseases. Breastfeeding plays a crucial role in the health, growth and development of babies and has benefits for the mother too. Women may need some help to successfully feed their babies, through support, reassurance to learn the skill.

Every day, millions of parents seek health care for their sick children, taking them to hospitals, health centres, pharmacists, doctors and traditional healers. Surveys reveal that many sick children are not properly assessed and treated by these health care providers, and that their parents are poorly advised. Health services for children exhibit numerous deficiencies in quality of care. The deficiencies cross all major domains of pediatric care--preventive services, acute care, and chronic care--and provide the opportunity for creative application of improvement strategies with a potential to benefit the health and well-being of children.

For a better Quality of care for children, people who get, give, and pay for health care locally, should work together. Moreover we can't improve Quality of care without engaging 'real people' in it. We need to proactively engage them as equal stakeholders, actively participating and shaping the changes needed to be made.

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**Citation:** Dr. Farihan Farouk Helmy. "Improving Quality of Care for Better Newborn and Children Health". EC Paediatrics SI.01 (2017): 13.