Title: Temporary Consultant to assist with Newborn Research Projects

Grade: equivalence P4

Contract Type: Short-term consultant

Duration: Six months

Date: 28th June 2016

Application Deadline: 15th July 2017

Duty Station: Geneva

Organizational Unit: MCA/MRD

Interested applicants should send cover letter, résumé and short writing sample by e-mail to Dr Rajiv Bahl, Scientist, Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (MCA), Research and Development (MRD) (bahlr@who.int).

1. Background

The MRD team collects, co-ordinates various multi-site studies, provides co-ordination, external oversight, support and provide standard operating procedures to the sites to carry out the study in a standardized and consistent manner, reviews and assesses data to develop evidence-based norms and standards to inform policy and better target strategies to improve health care delivery relevant to the needs of mothers, newborn, children and adolescents. There are several ongoing studies being supported by the team. This consultancy will provide assistance in providing technical support, co-ordination, quality assurance and data management needs of a number of ongoing studies focusing on improvement of the survival of neonates in multi-site studies. The consultant will also facilitate the submission of research proposals to the WHO ERC, making sure that all the requested documents are submitted and queries are addressed.

The purpose of the consultancy is to support the MRD team on three aspects 1) Assist Dr Bahl in providing technical support to study sites for preparing standard operating procedures for implementing newborn care interventions in two intervention research studies. 2) Data management of the ongoing research studies and 3) facilitation in the submission of new study proposals and continuing review of on-going studies to the WHO Ethical Review Committee (ERC).

2. Planned timelines (subject to confirmation)

Start date: 31/July/2017
End date: 31/January/2018

3. Work to be performed

Output 1: Contribute to two newborn intervention studies on Kangaroo mother care and antenatal corticosteroids (60%) –
Preparation of SOP
Preparation of training materials and agenda of training workshop
Develop process of standardization
Data management

Output 3: Zinc dosing study (20%) –
Provide feedback on data quality on a monthly basis, following the data transfer from the study site.
Prepare the database for DSMB analysis (three-monthly)

Output 4: Project management (20%)
   a) Facilitate the submission of new study proposals and continuing review of on-going studies to the WHO Ethical Review Committee (ERC) of the above studies.
   b) Help with the management of the above research studies

Technical Supervision
The selected Consultant will work on the supervision of the Coordinator, MRD

Specific requirements
- Qualifications required:
  Essential: Medical degree with specialization in paediatrics
  Desirable: Degree in public health
- Experience required:
  • 5 years’ experience in Neonatology or paediatrics & 1 years’ experience in Epidemiology or public health
- Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:
  Minimum 5 years’ experience related to clinical practice involving research to some degree.
  Experience in data analysis and management using of statistical software such as STATA.
  Prior experience with data management of data sets from developing countries is highly desirable
  Excellent communication and writing skills.
- Language requirements:
  • English (Read - Write - Speak / Expert)
  • French (Read – Write – Speak/intermediate)

4. Place of assignment
   WHO Geneva

5. Medical clearance
   The selected Consultant will be expected to provide a medical certificate of fitness for work.