Global Maternal Sepsis Study (GLOSS)

**Objectives and Background**
This study is part of the “Global Maternal and Neonatal Sepsis Initiative” which has the overall goal of accelerating reduction of preventable maternal and newborn deaths related to sepsis. The latest estimates suggest that infections are the underlying cause of 11% of maternal deaths and about 25% of newborn deaths, but the true burden of maternal infection and its complications is not well known.

The primary objectives of the Global Maternal Sepsis Study (GLOSS) are: 1) To develop and validate a set of criteria for identification of possible severe maternal infection (presumed maternal sepsis) and maternal sepsis (confirmed sepsis); 2) To assess the frequency and the outcomes of maternal sepsis in developing and developed countries; 3) To assess the frequency of use of a core set of practices recommended for prevention, early identification and management of maternal sepsis. The secondary objectives are: 4) To contribute to the understanding of vertical transmission of bacterial infection by assessing outcomes and management of neonates born to women with suspected or confirmed peripartum infection; 5) To explore the level of awareness about maternal and neonatal sepsis among health care providers, policy makers and the general public, including pregnant women, mothers and their families; 6) To build a network of health facilities to implement quality improvement strategies for better identification and management of maternal and early neonatal sepsis.

**Geographic location**
54 low-, middle- and high-income countries across the 6 WHO regions

**Main deliverables**
- Two sets of criteria for identification of possible severe maternal infection and maternal sepsis applicable in low and high resource settings
- Assessment of the frequency of maternal sepsis and of early neonatal sepsis among babies born to mothers with peripartum infections
- Assessment of current management of maternal and early neonatal sepsis
- An awareness campaign for maternal and newborn sepsis that can be used in other hospitals
- An active network of health facilities and researchers ready to contribute to the reduction of deaths due to infections

**Partners**
The Global Maternal and Neonatal Sepsis Initiative
Governmental, non-governmental, universities and research in 54 participating countries

**Sources of funding**
HRP, Merck for Mothers and USAID

**Date Issued**
September 2017
Raising awareness on maternal sepsis

RHR/WHO leads a global maternal sepsis study and awareness campaign

In late October, and in preparation for the Global Maternal Sepsis Study (GLOSS), WHO led the launch of a global awareness campaign aimed at providers working in healthcare facilities participating in the study. The study, which began with a one week identification period on 28 November 2017, is being conducted in 53 low-, middle- and high-income countries across the six WHO regions. One of the objectives of the study is to raise awareness about maternal among health care providers.

We created communication materials to disseminate in five of the UN official languages to be displayed in the facilities taking part of GLOSS. In addition, countries adapted and translated documents into multiple additional languages, including Kazakh, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Mongol, Thai, and Romanian. The campaign included a survey, a website, posters, infographics, fact sheets and templates for involving local media.

It has proven to be a huge success. We engaged more than 1 100 providers through an online survey, and participating countries amplified the campaign with additional activities and materials of their own.

Embracing the campaign, and making it their own

In addition to disseminating and displaying print materials in the participating hospitals, the team in Guatemala created a wall-sized “countdown” calendar to study start date. They also created bookmarks using messaging created for the campaign, held a press conference for local media in the region, created t-shirts for data collectors, and recorded a video explaining the objectives of the study. T-shirts were also created for data collectors in South Africa, with the question “Ask me how to stop sepsis” written on them. The study team in Colombia also created an informational video on sepsis during pregnancy that they used to inform patients on the topic and showed it on TVs throughout the facility. Nicaragua, Argentina, Kyrgyzstan, and Uruguay had multiple news coverage on the study and campaign.

To find out more about the study, the campaign, and the repercussions of the study go to http://srhr.org/sepsis.

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