A Bundled Approach to Care for Small Babies

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Helping Babies Grow bundle brings together affordable training and therapy solutions to provide appropriate feeding, infection prevention and skin-to-skin care—the essential elements for Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC). The bundle includes evidence-based, hands-on learning materials, a wearable simulator for breastfeeding and breast milk expression, a realistic preterm simulator for training on feeding methods and skin-to-skin care, a preterm wrap for skin-to-skin, a feeding cup, and videos on breastfeeding and small baby care.

BACKGROUND

Need

Prematurity is the leading cause of newborn death and disability globally. Every year, an estimated 15 million babies are born preterm, of which 1 million die and many more suffer from longterm disabilities. In low-income settings, half of the babies born at or before 32 weeks die due to a lack of adequate care. According to WHO, three-quarters of these babies could be saved with current, cost-effective interventions, including sufficient warmth, breastfeeding support, and basic care for infections and breathing difficulties.

Challenges with current standard of care of small babies

- Low resource settings make up the majority of deaths due to prematurity, where access to neonatal units with life-saving technologies are limited. In these settings, KMC has great potential.
- Even though KMC is a proven effective method to care for small babies, the uptake is slow, and there is a lack of appropriate therapeutic tools and effective hands-on training.

PRODUCT QUALITIES

The Helping Babies Grow Bundle brings together therapeutic products and training materials to empower health workers to care for preterm and low birthweight babies.

Essential Care for Small Babies Training Program

- Training program for small baby care developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and based on the latest WHO guidelines. The curriculum covers the period after birth and addresses interventions that support the needs of preterm and low birthweight babies.

Nifty Feeding Cup

- A reusable product for feeding breast milk to newborns with breastfeeding difficulties.
- Simple to use, easy to clean and culturally appropriate feeding solution which allows the infant to control the pace of feeding and increases milk intake with minimal waste.

MamaBreast Breastfeeding Simulator

- A wearable simulator that allows highly realistic simulation of breastfeeding and breast milk expression, which together with PremieNatalie, can be used for training and counseling of mothers.

PremieNatalie Preterm Simulator

- A realistic preterm simulator that supports training in skin-to-skin positioning, nasogastric tube placement, and breast, cup, and nasogastric tube feeding.
- Together with MamaBreast Simulator, PremieNatalie is excellent to use in training programs focusing on premature care, essential newborn care and KMC.

CarePlus Preterm Wrap

- Ergonomic wrap design that is safe, comfortable, easy-to-use (requires no assistance) and gender neutral.
- Designed with a goal to help mothers provide continuous and quality skin-to-skin care, also after hospital discharge.

Global Health Media Videos

- Breastfeeding and small baby training videos for both health care providers and parents.

Field Studies in Nepal and Malawi of CarePlus Show Positive Results

- Jhpiego study in Nepal enrolled 100 women with low birth weight babies.

"Results showed that mothers who selected the CarePlus wrap performed skin-to-skin contact for about 77 hours more than traditional wrap users."

A similar but more rigorous study in Malawi with Save the Children programs focusing on premature care, essential newborn care and KMC.

"Results showed that the average rate of weight gain between KMC admission & discharge was higher among the CarePlus wrap group (6.94g/day) compared to the wrap group (6.94g/day) compared to the

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