



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CARE FOR THE SICK NEWBORN: FOCUSING ON KMC AND BREASTFEEDING –A QI STUDY

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INDIVIDUAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Goals: Model the Way

- Initiated the project, designed the proposal for the quality improvement.
- Set up meetings with the ward staff, department head and clinical head.
- Showed the staff and students how to care for sick newborns.

Inspire a Shared Vision

- Explained the project to the ward team
- Allowed them to give their input

Challenge the Process

- Wrote to the department chair and clinical head
- Wrote to the hospital director through the head of hospital IRB.
- Obtained permission to conduct the QI project.

Enable Others to Act

- Conducted the trainings for staff and students
- Followed up and supported them as they cared for the newborns.

Encourage the Heart

- Shared the experiences with staff and students and used them as learning points.

Outcomes:

All staff are alert and quick to identify the sick newborns at admission and when admitted. There has been an improvement in the knowledge and skill and support for mothers with sick neonates



INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAM LEADERSHIP PROJECT

Background

There is an increase in newborn admissions at Mulago hospital, over 90 sick newborns admitted per month. All the nurses on stanfield ward had not received any training on exclusive breastfeeding and Kangaroo mother care.

Purpose

The main aim of this study is improving the Quality of care for the sick newborn through supporting mothers to exclusively breastfeed their newborns and practice KMC.

Methods: We carried out trainings of the nurses, midwives and students on Stanfield ward on breastfeeding and kangaroo mother care. Then we supported the staff and students in identifying the sick newborns, educating and supporting their mothers on exclusive breastfeeding and practicing Kangaroo mother care.

Outcomes: Nurses were trained in care for the newborn.

3 masters students and 18 undergraduate students were trained. Women were and are continuously being educated

The neonatal high dependence unit was assigned a pediatrician hence all very sick newborns are retained there for further care.

The students initiated a world breastfeeding day celebration which includes conducting breastfeeding seminars in selected health centers..

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Implications for Advancing Inter professional Practice:

Plans to retrain the new staff on wards so they can improve their practice.

Plan and incorporate breastfeeding and KMC in pre and in service training. The hospital should plan to have annual review of the staff knowledge and skills so as to help them optimize their practice.

Discussion:

Many nurses in practice lacked knowledge and skills yet many mothers need to be told and supported about KMC and breastfeeding. It is important and possible to improve neonates lives though education and support through nurses and midwives training, mentoring and support.

Sustainability Factors:

The ward staff are eager to continue identifying and caring for the sick newborns though there are challenges like staff turnover that is frequent and unpredictable leading to a need for scheduled retraining of the staff in the care of the sick newborn.

The hospital is undergoing renovation and there may be challenges as regards space and the location of the ward at different times. We will hope to keep the enthusiasm of the staff about the project through out the transitions.

A plan by the ward to conduct a full scale assessment of learning needs of the staff to help plan the next QI project.

Emphasis on breastfeeding and KMC in the ward meetings and trainings.

Next Steps:

We plan to ensure that the staff schedule on going trainings on the ward to keep them

We will coordinate and work with the newly established newborn high dependency unit so as to enhance newborn care.

We also hope to make the student's initiative for a breastfeeding seminar/ outreach an annual event.



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