

Standard Treatment Protocol for management of common newborn conditions in small hospitals (Adapted from WHO Guidelines)



# Transport of a sick baby

# Determine the indication\* to transport the baby to higher health facility:

- Birth weight <1000 grams / gestation <28 weeks
- Severe respiratory distress
- Shock not responding to fluid boluses and vasopressors
- Severe jaundice needing exchange transfusion
- Major congenital malformations e.g. meningomyelocele, complex heart disease
- Refractory seizures
- Abdominal distension with bilious vomiting

#### **Preparation for baby**

- Stabilize the baby (temperature, airway, breathing, circulation and blood sugar)
- Secure IV line and give necessary treatment before transfer
- Oxygen if indicated

#### Prepare for transport

- Counsel the parents and family before transport
- Communicate with & write a brief note to the referral hospital
- Arrange a capable healthcare provider, mother and a relative to accompany (if available)
- Assemble supplies and equipment to carry and arrange for transport (see box)
- Give one dose of antibiotics before transport

#### Care during transport

- Monitor frequently (temperature, airway and breathing, circulation, IV cannula and infusions
- Ensure that the baby receives feeds or fluid
- Oxygen if indicated
- Stop the vehicle, if necessary, to manage problems

# Feedback after transport

- Communicate with team at referral hospital to know:
  - Condition of the baby at arrival
  - Outcome of the baby
  - Post-discharge advice & follow up

For additional / next level management please refer to WHO Guidelines (Managing Newborn Problems and Pocket Book of Hospital Care of Children), http://www.ontop-in.org/sick-newborn/, http://www.newbornwhocc.org/ \*Indications have to be individualized for each facility depending upon capabilities and infrastructure of referring and referral facilities

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Equipment and supplies		Drugs & fluids
<ul> <li>Cover adequately-socks, cap</li> <li>Source of warmth, blanket</li> <li>Resuscitation equipment:         <ul> <li>bag</li> <li>appropriate sized mask</li> <li>suction apparatus</li> <li>oxygen cylinder with flow meter</li> <li>nasal catheter, or head box</li> </ul> </li> <li>Stethoscope, thermometer</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fluids &amp; feeds:         <ul> <li>Expressed breast milk</li> <li>Oro gastric tube to feed</li> <li>IV infusion set</li> <li>Butterfly set or IV set</li> </ul> </li> <li>Syringes and needles (various sizes and types)</li> <li>Adhesive tape</li> <li>Sterile gloves</li> <li>Antiseptic solution and cotton-wool balls</li> <li>Extra napkins (diapers)</li> <li>A source of illumination: Torch</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Any drug (e.g. antibiotics) the baby is receiving if a dose is anticipated during the trip</li> <li>IV fluid ( 0.9% NaCl , Ringer lactate , 10% dextrose )</li> </ul>

# Annex: Supplies and equipment to carry

If the baby is able to feed and the mother is not accompanying the baby, carry expressed breast milk and send mothers blood sample.