

ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS' COMPETENCE IN BASIC NEWBORN RESUSCITATION AT SUB COUNTY HOSPITALS IN UASIN GISHU, KENYA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Uasin Gishu County has a neonatal mortality rate of 52/1000 live births, much higher than the national mortality rate of 22/1000 live births. Up to a third of neonatal deaths can be averted by performing facility based basic neonatal resuscitation. Delay in establishing ventilation for non-breathing infant leads to hypoxia events that contribute to neonatal mortality and morbidity. The success of new-born resuscitation depends on knowledge, skills of the health care workers and the availability of the equipment.

Objective: To assess the health care workers' competence in basic new-born resuscitation at Sub County Hospitals in Uasin Gishu County

Study Methods: A cross sectional study conducted in the six Sub County Hospitals in Uasin Gishu County between January and June 2016. A census was done of all the health care workers in the labour wards. Knowledge on basic new born resuscitation was assessed using questions adapted from Neonatal Textbook of Resuscitation 6th Edition (2015). Skills assessment was based on clinical simulations adapted from Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment plus admission care (ETAT+) course. Factors associated with skills and knowledge were determined. Data were analysed using STATA Software Version 14. Chi square test and Fishers exact test were used to test for association.

Results: A total of 46 out of 57(80.7%) health care workers were assessed. Majority were registered nurses 38(82.6%) and 15(39%) had worked in the labour ward for more than five years. Twenty one (45.7%) health care workers had received in-service training on new-born resuscitation. On knowledge performance, 21(46%) health care workers passed. The following steps of resuscitation were achieved by the number of health care workers indicated; Dry baby 30(71.4%), assess Airway 24(57.1%) assess Breathing 14(33.3%), Call for Help 4(9.6%), Effective ventilation 2(4.8%). None of them achieved all the mentioned steps of basic new-born resuscitation. There was no significant association between knowledge and years of experience, cadre and in service training (P value, 0.519, 0.411, 0.979) respectively.

Conclusion: All health care workers do not have skills on basic new-born resuscitation in as much as half of them have minimum competency level of knowledge.