





















Dr Michelle Heys, Pl NeoTree Associate Professor UCL, UK and Consultant Paediatrican and joint Associate Clinical Director, East London NHS Foundation Trust, UK 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020

On behalf of: the wider NeoTree team



## **The Problem**

## 2.9 million neonatal deaths globally

Poor quality neonatal care

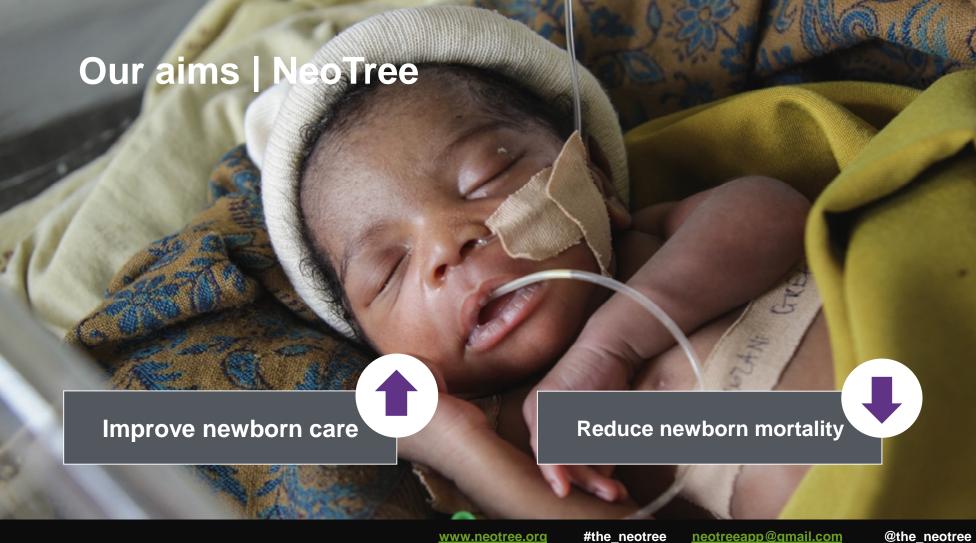


**J. 70%** 

through implementation of existing evidence-based guidelines

Lack of hospital data systems

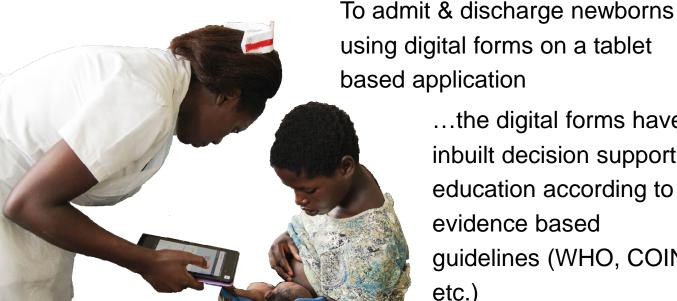




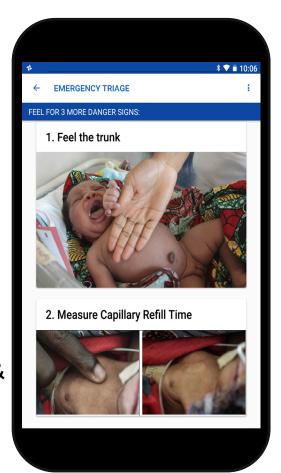
### What is the NeoTree?

A digital Health system aiming to improve newborn survival in low resource hospitals

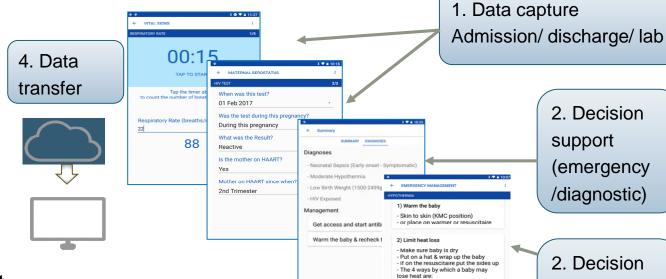
> For newborn health care workers (HCWs) of all cadres



...the digital forms have inbuilt decision support & education according to evidence based guidelines (WHO, COIN etc.)



## The NeoTree



3. Education

- 1. Immediate data capture
- 2. Clinical decision support
- 3. Education
- 4. Data transfer local and national
- 5. Data-driven quality improvement

2. Decision

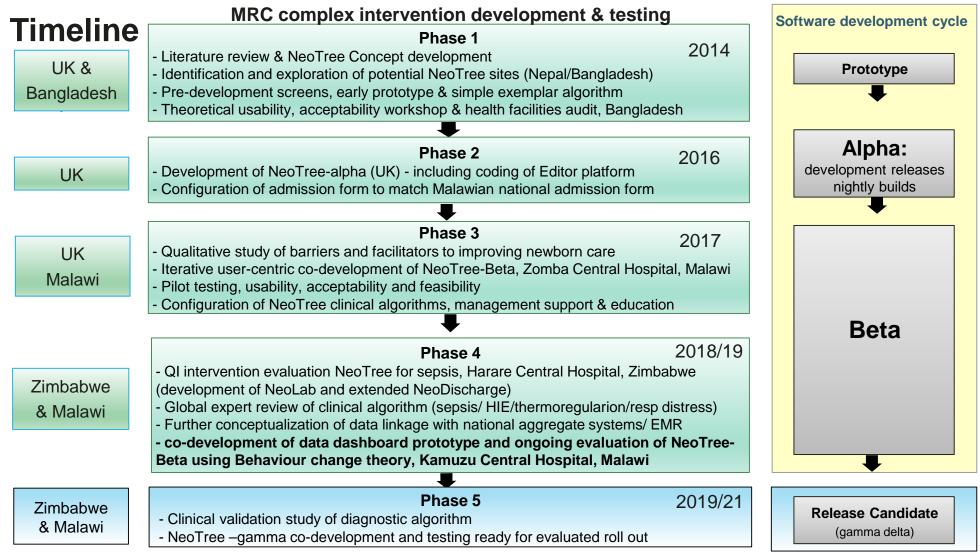
(emergency

/diagnostic)

support

## **Our Ethos**

**Country data High end software** Low cost hardware **Open-source code** ownership **Co-production** Data driven quality Not for profit **Participatory** improvement (micro/ meso / macro) Responsive, **Empowerment of** Compatible Collaboration adaptable **HCW Innovation for immediate impact** 



## Phase 1 (2014-16)

- Literature review barriers to reducing newborn mortality & potential solutions
- NeoTree Concept development
- Identification of potential NeoTree sites
- Baseline audit of health facilities Bangladesh
- Early pre-development screens

**NeoTree-Protype and concept refinement** 

Digital health could be part of the solution

### Review of available literature

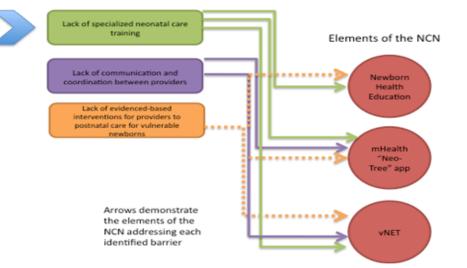
Potential causes for stagnation of NMR decline

Disparities in access to skilled attendance at birth and adequate postnatal newborn care

Shift to institutional deliveries

Quality of institutional care

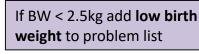
Barriers to the scale-up of institutional neonatal care



**SOLUTION?** 

Newborn care network

All words in deep red will be able to be clicked on and brought to their definition in the useful terms section

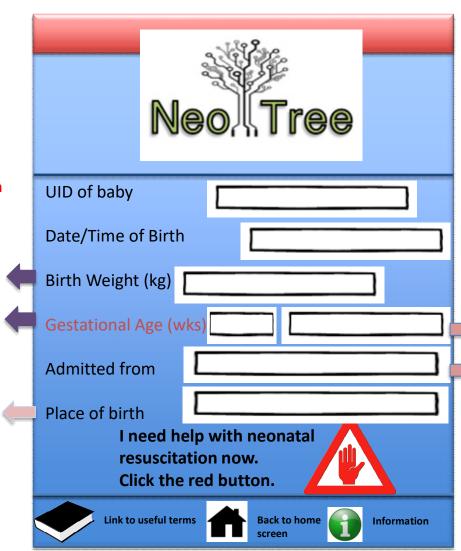


If <37 wks add **risk of sepsis** to problem list

## Drop-down a) Hospital

- b) Health centre
- c) Home
- d) Born Before arrival (in transit—

If born at home or BBA add risk of sepsis to problem list



Method of estimation dropdown

- 1) Fundal height
- 2) LMP
- 3) USS date:
- 4) Ballard Score: Link to Ballard /maturity score

#### Drop-down

- a) LW/PNW
- b) Theatre
- c) OPD
  - l) Under 5
- e) Referred from outside:
- Home (self referral)
- Other HC/Hospital:

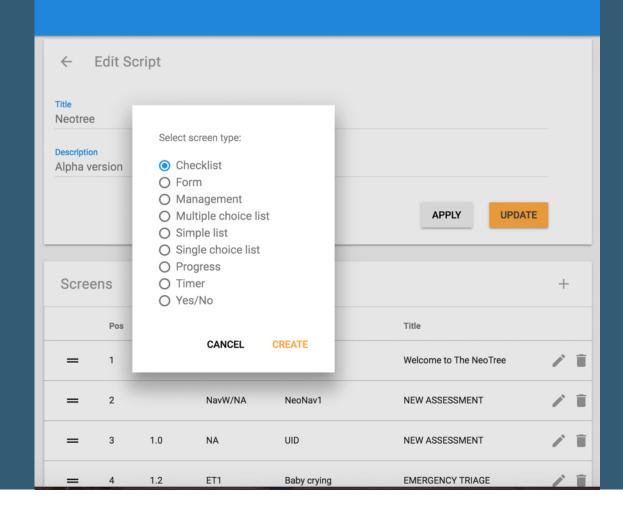
## Phase 2 (2016)

- Prototype adapted and developed using Ninjamock and data entry for admission form configured to match Malawian MoH form
- Coding of NeoTree-alpha (UK)
- Includes coding of Editor platform and android app
- Configuration of form with integrated clinical management
- Creation of new logo
- Created a website and introductory video

#### NeoTree-Alpha



## **EDITOR**



# Phase 3 (2016-17)

- Configuration of NeoTree-Beta clinical algorithm according to international and Malawian guidelines (COIN: Care of the Infant Newborn)
- Pilot testing & intervention co-development of NeoTree-Beta, Zomba Central, Malawi
- Qualitative study of barriers and facilitators to delivery of quality newborn care
- lterative user-centric coproduction and app development
- Configuring of simple NeoTree-discharge forms
- Media footage, film, website

#### **NeoTree-Beta**

Highly usable acceptable and feasible tool

**NeoTree App Interface** (Front End)

**Decision support** (2a Emergencies)

1. Data collection





← EMERGENCY TRIAGE

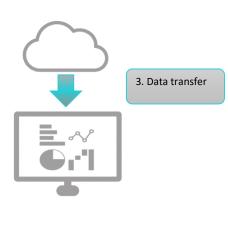
Tap ALL those present:

Trunk feels cold

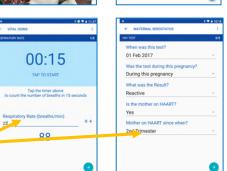
Weak or fast femoral pulses

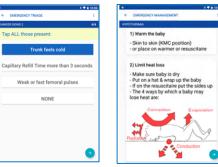
NONE













**Decision support** (2b non-emergency /diagnostic)

**Decision support** (2c management summaries)

## INTERVENTION DEVELOPMENT STUDY — ZOMBA CENTRAL HOSPITAL, MALAWI **SOUTHERN REGION**

Highly usable, feasible and acceptable tool Implementation recommendations

**BMJ Global Health** 

# The NeoTree application: developing an integrated mHealth solution to improve quality of newborn care and survival in a district hospital in Malawi

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Handling editor Soumitra Bhuyan

► Additional material is published online only. To view please visit the journal online (http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/ bmjqh-2018-000860).

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#### ABSTRACT

More than two-thirds of newborn lives could be saved worldwide if evidence-based interventions were successfully implemented. We developed the NeoTree application to improve quality of newborn care in resourcepoor countries. The NeoTree is a fully integrated digital health intervention that combines immediate data capture. entered by healthcare workers (HCW) on admission, while simultaneously providing them with evidence-based clinical decision support and newborn care education. We conducted a mixed-methods intervention development study, codeveloping and testing the NeoTree prototype with HCWs in a district hospital in Malawi. Focus groups explored the acceptability and feasibility of digital health solutions before and after implementation of the NeoTree in the clinical setting. One-to-one theoretical usability workshops and a 1-month clinical usability study informed iterative changes, gathered process and clinical data. System Usability Scale (SUS) and perceived improvements in quality of care. HCWs perceived the NeoTree to be acceptable and feasible. Mean SUS before and after the clinical usability study were high at 80.4 and 86.1 respectively (above average is >68). HCWs reported high-

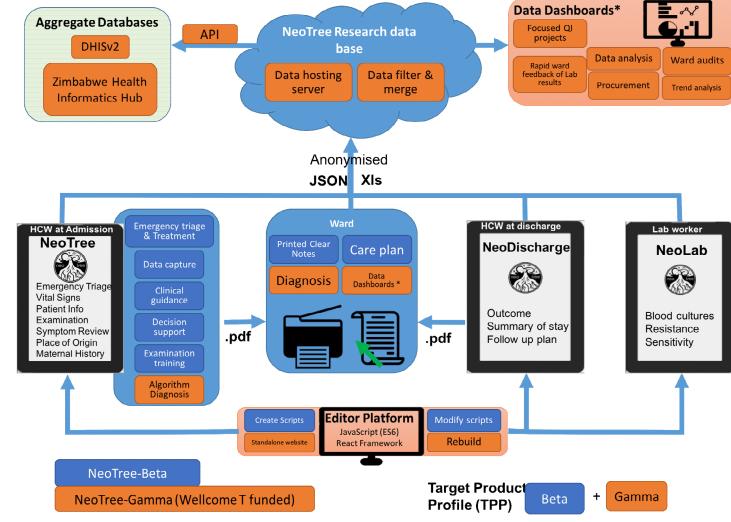
#### **Summary box**

- More than two-thirds of newborn lives could be saved worldwide if evidence-based interventions were successfully implemented.
- Reliable data sources and health information systems for counting births, stillbirths, neonatal deaths and delineating the causes of death are lacking.
- With the fast-moving digital revolution in low-income countries mobile health applications are being increasingly designed but these have not yet focused on facility-based newborn care.
- Here we present the NeoTree application, focusing on newborn care in low-income facilities, combining data collection by healthcare workers themselves, with interactive decision support and education for improving quality of care.
- We report iterative codevelopment with healthcare workers to create a highly usable interactive admission platform, which provides teaching and training, improving the perceived quality of care delivered by healthcare workers while admitting the baby.

# Phase 4 (2018-19)

- International expert review of clinical algorithm (sepsis/ HIE/ thermoregulation/ respiratory distress)
- Quality improvement project: NeoTree to address sepsis management, Harare Central Hospital, Zimbabwe
- Configuration of NeoTree-Lab and extended NeoTree-discharge pages
- Development of data dashboard using Behaviour change theory and frameworks, Kamuzu Central Hospital, Malawi
- Development of monthly data dashboard using R code based, HCH, Zimbabwe
- Further conceptualization of data linkage with Zimbabwe aggregate data system working with Zimbawean Ministry of Health

#### **NeoTree-Beta**



**linkage**Json: JavaScript Object Notation; minimal, readable format for data structure and transfer

**Key functions** 

capture

**Decision** 

support

Data

**Education** 

Data

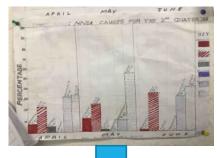
# PRELIMINARY KEY MESSAGES FROM PHASE 4 IMPLEMENTATION

#### Harare Central Hospital, Zimbabwe:

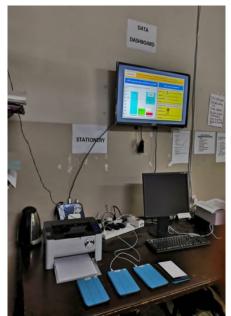
- 1. Continuity of care despite doctors strikes nurses now using the digital platform
- 2. Instant data capture and feedback for clinicians and management
- 3. Linkage with lab data
- 4. Improved antimicrobial stewardship on discharge

#### Kamuzu Central Hospital, Malawi:

- 1. Successful implementation and sustained use in a busy unit
- Sustained high usability
- 3. Data driven change in quality of care especially around thermoregulation of babies
- 4. Impact on mortality & morbidity meetings with obstetrics and gynaecology







Dashboard prototypes have been developed to give 3 outputs – these update in real time:

- 1. Mortality & Morbidity slide deck
- 2. Summary statistics dashboard
- 3. Behaviour change dashboard







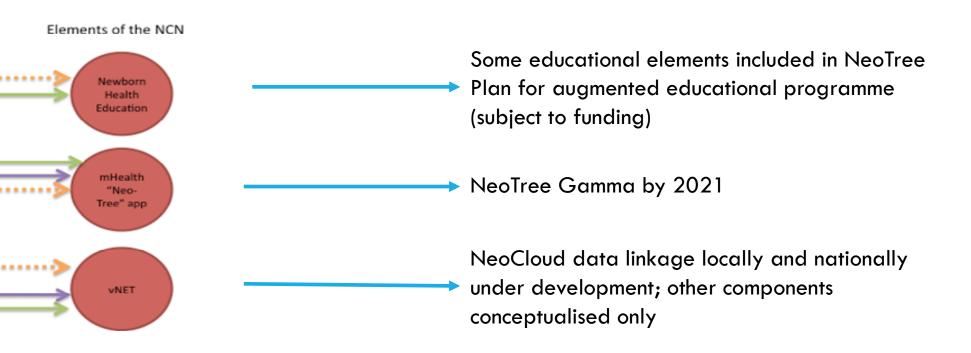
# Phase 5 (2019-21 – Wellcome trust funded)

- Ongoing implementation in HCH and KCH
- Additional implementation in Chinhoye provincial hospital, Zimbabwe
- Revision of diagnostic algorithms according to expert review and modelling
- Clinical validation of key diagnostic algorithms (sepsis/HIE/resp distress)
- Staged implementation evaluation of full functionality of NeoTree-Gamma
- Protocol for robust evaluation at scale, including health economic analysis
- Development of data linkage to national data systems (DHIS-v2)

#### **NeoTree-Gamma**

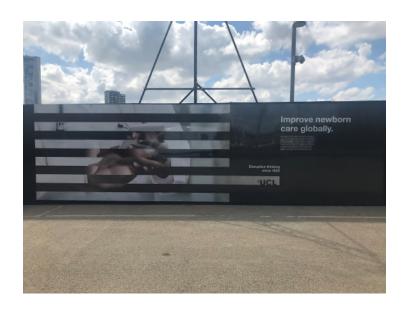
Ready for large scale evaluated roll out

## BACK TO THE START



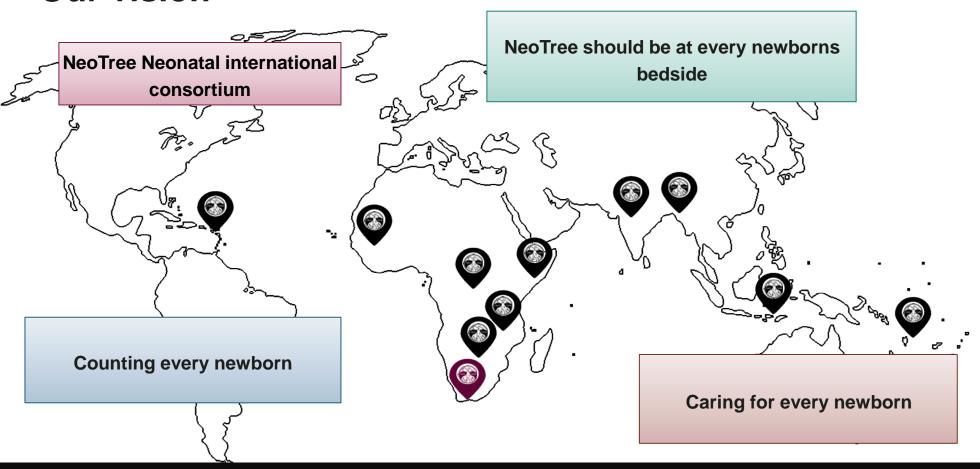
## **#MADEATUCL & PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW**

Top 100 innovations across UCL





## **Our vision**



#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

· Dr Michelle Heys, Associate Professor Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health (GOS-ICH), University College London (UCL), UK and Consultant Paediatrican, East London NHS Foundation Trust, UK

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  - · Dr. Msandeni Chiume-Kayuni, head Paediatric Consultant at Kamuzu Central Hospital, Lilongwe, Malawi

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- Dr Hassan Haghparast-Bidgoli, Institute for Global Health (IGH), UCL Prof Monica Lakhanpaul, GOSH-ICH, UCL Dr Fabiana Lorencatto, Centre for Behaviour Change, UCL Dr Hannah Gannon Prof Mario Cortina Borja, GOS-ICH, UCL Dr Gwen Chimhini Dr Emma Wilson, GOS-ICH, UCL, Dr Liam Shaw, Modernising Medical Microbiology, University of Oxford.

#### SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT TEAM • Mr Yali Sassoon • Mr Charles Normand • Mr Louis du Toit

Mi ruii Sussoon Mi Charles Normana Mi Louis ao ron

#### RESEARCH PARTNERS/ COLLABORATORS

· Dr Bejoy Nambiar, UNICEF, Malawi · Dr Norman Lufesi, Acute Respiratory Illness department, Ministry of Health (MoH), Malawi · Dr Queen Dube, Head Paediatric Consultant at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH), Blantyre · Prof Valerie Robertson, University of Zimbabwe · Dr Shungu Munyati is Director-General of the Biomedical Research and Training Institute (BRTI), Zimbabwe · Dr Robert Gongora, Ministry of Health (MoH), Zimbabwe · Dr Gregory Valentine. Clinical Neonatal Fellow at Baylor Institute of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital · Dr Pascal Lavoie. Neonatologist at British Columbia Women's Hospital and Associate Professor, University of British Columbia · Dr Simbini

#### **CURRENT/ PREVIOUS RESEARCH STUDENTS**

· Mr Sam Neal, UCL, · Dr Mari Evans (UCL, MSc 2019), · Miss Erin Kesler (UCL, MSc 2014)

#### **TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD**

• Dr Tim Colbourne, IGH, UCL • Dr Logan Manikam, GOS-ICH, UCL • Dr Ed Fottrell, IGH, UCL • Mr Marcus Wooton, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), UK. • Dr Alex Stevenson, Neonatologist, Zimbabwe.

#### AND ALSO

· Prof Anthony Costello, UCL · Mr Matteo Giaccone (software development) · Dr Patty Costcova, UCL · Dr Rizine Mzikamanda, Malawi, · Miss Lauren Kesler, · Miss Brittany Abernathy

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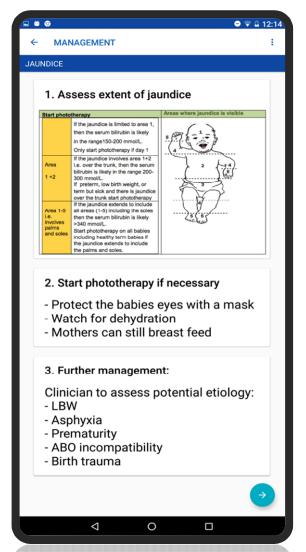




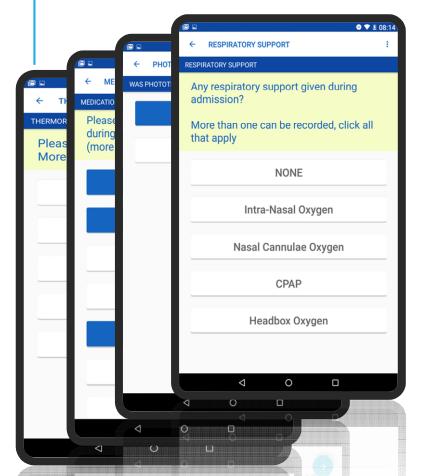
## **SPARES**

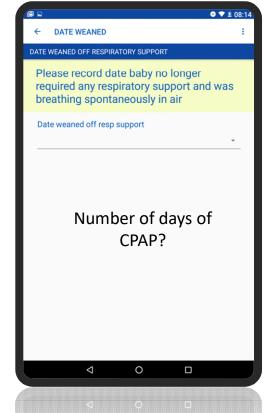
# MANAGEMENT PAGES AT THE END OF ADMISSION





## DISCHARGE FORM — DATA COLLECTION





## **OVERVIEW OF ALGORITHM DEVELOPMENT**

		emergency diagnostic algorythms				management	non-emergency diagnostic algorythms				emergency	clinical		
Year	NeoTree version		· · ·		tested	guidelines	conceptualised					validitiy data		
		•			Bangladeshi					Bangladeshi				
2013-2014	Concept	٧	x	х	HCW	√ (partially)	٧	×	х	HCW	concept only	x		
			alg	orythms co	onceptualised o	and developed a	ccording to interi	national guide	lines and a	available evide	nce			
			simple		Bangladeshi			simple		Bangladeshi				
2014-2015	Prototype	٧	hypotheria	х	HCW	V	√ (partially)	hypotheria	х	HCW	concept only	x		
		alg	orythms con	figured and	refined accor	ding to internati	onal and nationa	l guidelines, d	available e	vidence and cli	nical judgemer	nt		
											unlinked to			
											diagnostic			
					Malawian					Malawian	algorythm;			
2016	NeoTree alpha	٧	٧	٧	HCW	٧	٧	√ (partial)	Х	HCW	HCW chosen	n~100		
		lab data (blood cultures) linked to clinical data; discharge data augmented												
											unlinked to			
											diagnostic			
					Zimbabwean					Zimbabwean	algorythm;			
2018-2019	NeoTree-Beta	٧	٧	٧	HCWs	V	٧	√ (partial)	х	HCWs	HCW chosen	n~2000		
											unlinked to			
											diagnostic			
					Malawian					Malawian	algorythm;			
2019	NeoTree-Beta	٧	٧	٧	HCW	٧	٧	√ (partial)	Х	HCW	HCW chosen			
2018-2019		In	ternational l	Delphi cons	ensus study ar	nd review of diag	gnostic algorythm	ns (sepsis/ HIE	:/ respirato	ory distress and	d hypothermia)			
2019-2020				I.	iterature revie	w of HIC/LMIC s	epsis algorythms	and modellin	g of sepsis	data				
		ethnographic study of adherence to emergency guidelines												
	NeoTree-Beta				Malawian/					Malawian/	linked to			
	clinical validity				Zimbabwean					Zimbabwean	diagnostic			
2020	study	٧	٧	٧	HCW	V	٧	√ (partial)	х	HCW	algorythm	n>4000		
		analysis of validity data and revision of algorythm												
					Malawian/					Malawian/	linked to			
	NeoTree-				Zimbabwean					Zimbabwean	diagnostic			
2020-2021	Gamma	V	٧	٧	HCW	٧	٧	٧	٧	HCW	algorythm			

## A systematic review of health worker led interventions to reduce mortality in low birth weight neonates in low and middle-income institutional settings

G259(P)

Kesler, Erin RN, BSN, MSc, Heys, Michelle Dr Researcher UCL Institute for Global Health Tel: 07860 830 541





• limited evidence on HCW led facility-based postnatal interventions to decrease mortality in LBW infants.

- lack of consistent scale-up.
- Packages of care needed
- Implementation
- sustainability.

Training of medical and nursing staff including neonatal resuscitation

Simple staff training program and inclusion of mothers in the provision of newborn care Package of neonatal interventions including: early discharge, maternal involvement, asepsis routines, enteral feeding, protocolbased

management, rational antibiotics and nurse training.

Health worker led interventions or a package of interventions identified from six studies

> Care in an incubator by nurse or care by mother at mother's bedside

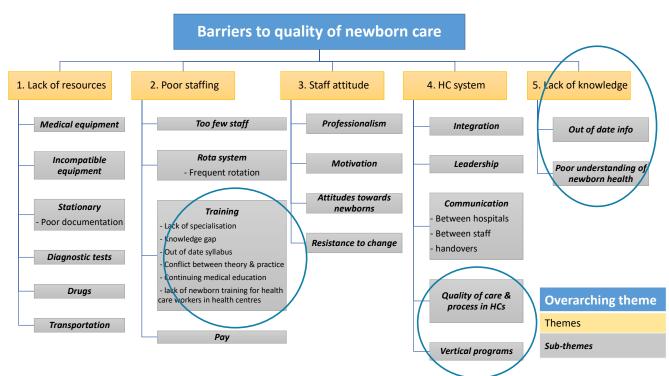
Helping Babies Breathe-simple interventions to improve delivery room stabilization and resuscitation

Kangaroo mother care with mother or caregiver

Categories / problems:	Symptoms / states:	Diagnoses:			
<ol> <li>LBW</li> <li>VLBW</li> <li>ELBW</li> <li>Big Baby</li> </ol>	16. Hypoglycaemia 17. Risk of Hypoglycaemia	26. Risk of Birth Asphyxia 27. Consider birth asphyxia 28. Birth asphyxia			
<ul><li>5. Premature</li><li>6. Very premature</li><li>7. Extremely premature</li></ul>	18. Mild hypothermia 19. Moderate hypothermia 20. Severe hypothermia 21. Hypothermia	29. EONS asymptomatic 30. LONS asymptomatic 31. EONS symptomatic 32. LONS symptomatic			
8. Difficulty feeding	22. Dehydration	33. Congenital abnormality			
9. HIV exposed	23. Abdominal obstruction	34. Anaemia			
10. Convulsions	24. Umbilical hernia	35. Jaundice			
11. Consider NEC	24. Ambiguous genitalia	36. Pneumonia/bronchiolitis			
12. Consider meningitis		37. ? Pnuemocystis Jerovechei Pneumonia			
13. Consider tetanus		Respiratory distress of the newborn:			
14. Untreated maternal syphilis		38. TTN: Transient Tachypnoea Newborn			
15. Birth Trauma		<ul><li>39. RDS: Respiratory distress Newborn</li><li>40. MA: Meconium Aspiration</li><li>41. CPN: Congenital Pneumonia</li></ul>			

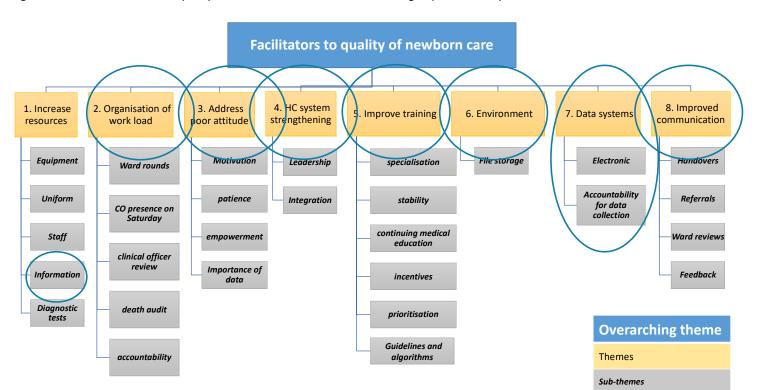
# QUALITATIVE STUDY: HCW PERCEIVED BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO DELIVERY OF QUALITY CARE (MANUSCRIPT IN PREPARATION)

Figure 1. Perceived Barriers to quality of newborn care - Themes from focus groups with facility Health Care Workers



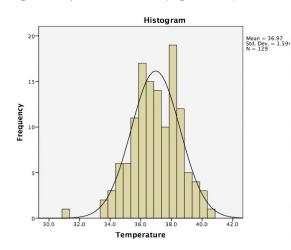
# QUALITATIVE STUDY: HCW PERCEIVED BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO DELIVERY OF QUALITY CARE (MANUSCRIPT SUBMITTED)

Figure 2: Perceived facilitators to quality of newborn care - Themes from focus groups with facility Health Care Workers



# A DIGITAL PERINATAL OUTCOME AUDIT OF ADMISSIONS TO A DISTRICT HOSPITAL NEONATAL UNIT IN MALAWI USING THE NEOTREE APPLICATION (MANUSCRIPT SUBMITTED)

Figure 1. Temperature on admission (Degrees Celsius):



(n)	1. 10(1)	
	(n (%))	
7	3 (42.8)	428/1000 cases
30	7 (23.3)	233/1000 cases
44	1 (2.3)	23/1000 cases
6	1 (16.7)	167/1000 cases
42	0 (0.0)	0/1000 cases
	44 6	30 7 (23.3) 44 1 (2.3) 6 1 (16.7)

RDS = Respiratory Distress Syndrome. \*Primary diagnosis was the most salient diagnosis (cause of death for neonatal deaths), decided by the researcher by reading the medical record and using clinical judgement as a neonatal registrar. These are mutually exclusive. Primary, secondary and tertiary diagnoses were recorded where necessary.

# EXPERT REVIEW OF CLINICAL CONTENT AND VALIDATION OF CLINICAL ALGORITHM (MANUSCRIPT IN PREPARATION)

- •Round 1: n=14 experts, n=9 (HIC); n=5 LIC
- •Round 2: 10 experts
- Consensus reached on 52% of items
- •Items must be consistent with local and WHO guidelines
- Example of key changes
  - HIE should use Thompson scoring system
  - Sepsis algorithm shouldn't use weighted system for diagnosis, but more evidence should be gathered (HCH, MRes study)
  - the revised respiratory algorithm, all neonates with respiratory distress will be given antibiotics





## WHO HAS USED THE NEOTREE IN KCH?

#### Who is using NeoTree?

- 90 different HCWs
- 5 different cadres (TBC)

#### How many times?

Permanent staff: Average 90 times (Range 23-195 times)

All users: Average 13 times (Range 1-195 times)

#### How long did it take?

7 mins - >1hr (difficult to measure)

Median time taken Sep/Oct - 25 mins

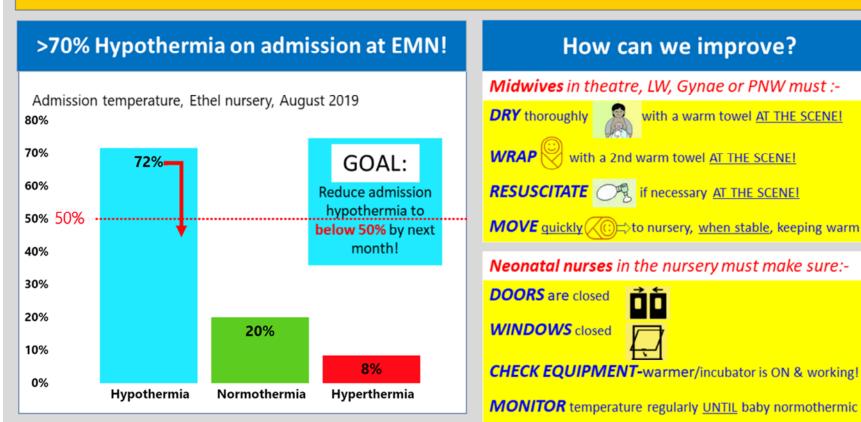
Most people take < 20 mins

Discharge only takes 10 mins

#### BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMPONENTS OF AUDIT AND FEEDBACK INCLUDED

STANDARD:

Midwives & neonatal nurses must keep all newborns warm (> 36.5 °C) at all times, particularly after birth & in transit to nursery so that all admission temperatures are >36.5 °C



## QI DATA PROJECTS (2019-2020)

#### Zimbabwe

- AN steroid exposure and neonatal outcome
- Outcome at discharge for babies with hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy
- Outcome at discharge for babies with sepsis

#### Malawi

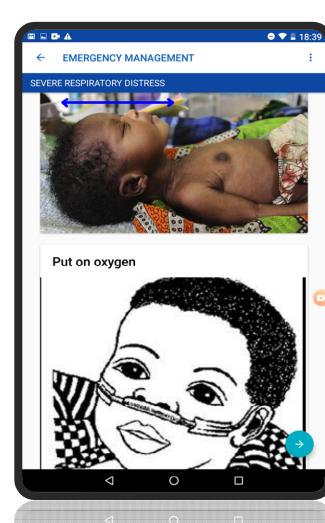
- Outcome at discharge for babies with gastroschisis
- Monitoring of vital signs
- \*thermoregulation

### **ON ADMISSION**

Quality improvement through educational / training pictures

In emergency management & triage





### **NEXT STEPS**

- "Mummy Tree"
- Daily EMR
- NeoTree charity
- Link with community groups/ data
  - Especially for high risk newborns eg post HIE
- Development of the app functionality for other groups eg AN maternal care and paediatric sepsis - QECH

# Phase 5 (2019-21 subject to funding decision)

- Ethnographic evaluation of adherence to emergency diagnostic algorithm
- Development of educational arm
- Implementation in Queen Elizabeth Blantyre, Malawi

NeoTree-Gamma+

## ZIMBABWE HARARE CENTRAL HOSPITAL

- 12,000 births per year,
- 4,800 admissions
- <4% blood test results returned in time to affect care of the newborn
- 97% babies discharged on oral antibiotics

#### Goals

- 1. To improve adherence to best practice guidelines for junior doctors and so improve care
- 2. To standardise and improve data collection for ease of audit and monitor unit activity
- 3. To reduce turn around time for blood culture results from median 6 days
- 4. And so improve management of sepsis and infection control

## KAMUZU CENTRAL HOSPITAL OVERVIEW

#### **MDRes study Dr Crehan**

Implementation introduced over 4 week period

#### Data collection since 24th April:-

- 1436 admissions
- 1238 matched discharges/deaths
- (Outcome data available for 86%)
- > 90 different HCWs & 5 different cadres have used the app

High usability (SUS score 88.3; core > 65 is considered above average)

Acceptability and feasibility according to behaviour change data awaiting analysis

Rates of admission hypothermia are improving (down from 72% to 68%)

Co-development of data-dashboard prototype

Completeness of data 21% better using an electronic point of care app compared to paper record