Inpatient newborn care in Nairobi City County

Estimating the gap between the need for and the availability, utilisation, and quality of facility-based inpatient newborn care in Nairobi.

Institutions and researchers

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1. Who is doing this research?

This study is being done as part of a collaboration between the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme in Kenya and the University of Oxford in the UK. KEMRI is a government organisation that carries out medical research to find better ways of preventing and treating illness in the future for everybody's benefit. Sometimes research involves only asking questions to health providers, about what they know, feel, or do.

All research at KEMRI has to be approved before it begins by several national [and international] committees who look carefully at planned work. They must agree that the research is important, relevant to Kenya and follows nationally and internationally agreed research guidelines. This includes ensuring that all participants' safety and rights are respected.

This study is being guided by a group of senior personnel from: the Ministry of Health; Nairobi City Council; the University of Nairobi; the Kenya Paediatric Association; Pumwani Maternity Hospital; and the Nursing Council of Kenya.

2. Why is this study being done?

Although Kenya is making progress in reducing deaths among children, there has been little reduction in deaths among newborn babies. Many of these deaths could be prevented with high quality inpatient care. In this study, we are trying to establish what care is currently available to sick newborns in Nairobi. In order to plan improvements in the equitable provision of care, it is first necessary to better understand how the provision of, access to, and quality of care might be improved to prevent newborn deaths and long-term disability. We are conducting this research in partnership with local and national policy-makers as part of efforts to provide evidence for long-term policy on service provision.

We are interested in understanding more about the nursing care provided to mothers and newborns at the point of delivery and to newborns during inpatient care. We would therefore like to invite you to partake in a questionnaire. This questionnaire will form part of the larger study which also looks at the overall structure of inpatient care for newborns, the utilisation of facilities, and the care delivered by clinicians. The study is taking

place in facilities in Nairobi City County that provide inpatient care for sick newborns 24 hours a day for 7 days a week. Within those facilities we are inviting nursing staff to partake in a questionnaire; no other types of staff are being interviewed.

3. Why have I been chosen to take part in the study?

We would like to interview all (or in some cases half of) currently on-duty nursing staff in your facility who provide either care for sick newborns or care at the point of, and directly after, childbirth. You have been identified as one such staff member.

Although permission has been granted by the authority at your facility for this research to take place, your personal participation in the study is entirely voluntary. We will only interview you if you provide informed and voluntary consent.

4. For what am I being asked to provide consent?

If you agree, a research assistant would like to ask you some questions about your qualifications and experience in nursing, your knowledge of emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) and/or management of sick newborns, availability of equipment at your facility, and the frequency with which EmONC and/or inpatient newborn interventions are delivered at your facility. A structured questionnaire will be used to ask you specific questions. This questionnaire will be strictly confidential. No-one else but the interviewer will be present unless you would like someone else there. You and the interviewer can find a suitable private location to conduct the interview. Your response to questions will be recorded on the questionnaire, but will not be tape-recorded. If you do not want to answer any of the questions you may say so and the interviewer will move on to the next question. The questionnaire should take approximately 30 minutes.

5. Can I decline to participate in the study?

Although we have been given permission by the authority at your facility to interview staff, it is important that you realise that you can decide freely for yourself whether or not you want to participate. All participation in research is voluntary. If you do agree first, you can change your mind at any time without giving a reason; there will be no consequences.

6. Are there any risks or disadvantages to me taking part in this study?

We will ensure that your identity is protected. We will not record your name and only summary results from across all of the facilities we are researching will be presented. Therefore, your identity will not be inferred from the results. We will discuss with you to find a convenient time during our visit to conduct the questionnaire so as to minimise disruption to your work. We do not believe there are any risks to taking part in this research.

7. Are there any benefits to me of taking part in this study?

There are no individual benefits to taking part. In participating, you will contribute to knowledge about the quality of, and need for neonatal care, in Nairobi City County. This knowledge may help us to learn how to support healthcare facilities and staff in better ways to improve services and may then help people in Kenya and elsewhere in the future. At the completion of the assessment, we will provide your facility with feedback on results from the study.

8. What will happen with the information collected from this questionnaire?

All of our documents are stored securely in locked cabinets and on password protected computers. Only the research team will have access to the information we collect.

The knowledge gained from this research will be shared in summary form. We are collecting information from a number of facilities and will make a report based on all these assessments. The report on findings across facilities will be shared with staff within your facility in a forum so that you and others have the chance to comment on the findings. Final reports will be shared with the Ministry of Health and other health stakeholders in Kenya and with others interested in this research. Information about quality of care will only be provided in summary form across groups of facilities in these reports.

In future, information collected or generated during this study may be used to support new research by other researchers in Kenya, the UK, and other countries. In all cases, we will only share information with other researchers in ways that do not reveal individual participants' identities. For example, we will ensure that no information that could identify people, such as their names and specific details about where they live, is contained in the information stored or shared. Any future research using information from this study must first be approved by a local or national expert committee to make sure that the interests of participants and their communities are protected.

9. Who can I contact if I have questions about the study?

You are free to ask me any question about this research. If you have any further questions about the study, you are free to contact the research team using the contacts below:

Dr Nancy Abuya, KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme, P.O. Box 43640 – 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Telephone: [0711823487] or 20 2719936 Email: NAbuya@kemri-wellcome.org

Mr David Gathara, KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme, P.O. Box 43640 – 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Telephone: [0721659321] or 20 2719936 Email: DGathara@kemri-wellcome.org

If you want to ask someone independent anything about this research please contact:

The Secretary - KEMRI Ethics Review Committee, P. O. BOX 54840-00200, Nairobi, Tel number: 020 272 2541 Mobile: 0722 205 901 or 0733 400 003

To be completed by the CONSENTING PARTICIPANT:

Please initial beside the statement with which you provide your consent.

Statement	**Initials**
I have had the study explained to me. I have understood all that has been read/explained and had my questions answered satisfactorily.	
I agree to be in this study and partake in the nursing questionnaire.	
I understand that I can change my mind at any stage and it will not affect me or the facility in any way.	

Participant signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Participant name: _____ **(Please print your name)**

I attest that the information concerning this research was accurately explained to and apparently understood by the subject and that informed consent was freely given by the subject.

Witness to consent signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Witness to consent name: _____ **(Please print your name)**

**A witness is a person who is independent from the study or a member of staff who was not involved in gaining the consent.*

To be completed by the INVESTIGATOR:

Date:	
Facility name:	
Facility address:	

I have followed the study SOP to obtain consent. S/he apparently understood the nature and the purpose of the study. S/he has been given opportunity to ask questions which have been answered satisfactorily.

Investigator's signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Investigator's name: _____ **(Please print your name)**