



Quality of Care Subgroup

Terms of Reference

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www.childhealthtaskforce.org

Rationale

A global movement is underway to strengthen the quality of care (QoC) for mothers, newborns, and children. A number of quality improvement initiatives exist globally, for example:

- WHO / UNICEF have issued QoC standards for maternal and newborn health, and pediatric care at health facilities, and are expected to launch standards for small and sick newborn care in early 2020;
- The Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal Newborn and Child Health (the QoC Network), initially consisting of 10 countries, had high-level commitment to strengthening the quality of maternal and newborn care, with a focus on strengthening quality in select districts;
- The 2018 launch of the pediatric care standards offered an opportunity to expand the countries' quality focus to pediatric care;
- The Lancet commission on high quality systems is advancing health systems research on quality of care more generically; and,
- The Primary Health Care Performance Initiative is compiling country profiles including quality care delivery in PHC settings globally.
- The Nurturing Care Framework for Early Child Development is increasingly seen as a useful concept for country programming, outlining a multi-sectoral approach for Survive and Thrive with QoC as an overarching principle.
- QoC standards are to be issued for small and sick newborn care in late 2019 or early 2020. There is a need to motivate uptake of these standards and to promote harmonized QoC efforts across small and sick newborn and child health services to maintain a continuum of care.

Uptake of the Pediatric QoC Standards by countries has been slow and pediatric representation and engagement in supporting the QoC Network remains limited. As the current focus of most countries in the QoC Network is on maternal and newborn QoC, the QoC focus is at higher level facilities while the majority of pediatric cases are managed at community and primary care facility level. There is a need for increased visibility of QoC for child health, global and country level engagement and coordination around QoC for child health, and examination of opportunities to extend the quality agenda to community health services.

This global momentum and need to enhance QoC for child health present an opportunity for the Child Health Task Force to complement the efforts of the QoC Network in the advocacy for and implementation of the Pediatric QoC Standards and to contribute to cross-initiative and cross-organization learning on improving QoC in maternal, newborn, and child health. Given the Task Force's thematic leadership and the embedded focus on quality across many of the subgroups, the Child Health Task Force is well-positioned to add to and support the introduction and uptake of the Pediatric QoC Standards in countries.

The QoC Subgroup of the Child Health Task Force will help to coordinate a maintained QoC focus across the different subgroups, but keep its main focus on advancing pediatric QoC at global and country level.

Purpose

- Create a platform in the child health community to advocate for and provide targeted support to countries to improve QoC for children in QoC Network and non-Network countries where Task Force members are active
- Understand current activities, opportunities, and define priority actions to advance pediatric QoC in countries
- Promote QoC for children through existing health and multi-sectoral platforms and champions at national level
- Engage, align, and collaborate with existing networks for QoC, such as the QoC Network, the Lancet Commission on High Quality Health Systems, and the Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) Implementation and QoC groups
- Foster a culture of quality through cross-group collaboration and innovation within the Task Force

Scope

- QoC for child health
 - 1 month to 19 years
 - Alignment with and in mutual support of QoC for maternal and newborn health

Potential Scope of Work

- Advocate for QoC in improvement of child health programs and policies, and increase engagement of child health stakeholders in global and country QoC discussions and in QoC Network-administered platforms (e.g. community of practice)
- Create a Task Force QoC subgroup platform for stakeholders at country and global levels to share insights, resources, tools, and guidelines related to quality of care, in close collaboration with the QoC Network
- Promote QoC focus across the Task Force subgroups by sharing ideas, challenges, solutions, and success stories on quality improvement / QoC
- Foster increased engagement of Task Force members to support countries in their efforts to implement suitable approaches to improve and maintain the QoC
- Contribute Task Force membership technical expertise to global QoC efforts, including as an example, the development and streamlining of indicators to measure quality

- Offer platform for multi-sectoral dialogue on strengthening the QoC (e.g. Energy, WaSH in health facilities, provider and organizational behavior)
- Examine approaches to strengthening the quality of community-based care for children (e.g. innovative behavior change and communication approaches to effectively deliver child health services at community level)

Intended Outcomes

- Advocacy for increased global and country level attention to QoC for child health
- Support for global and country level guidance and policies for promoting QoC for child health
- Framework for country engagement and global coordination around child health QoC, in support and alignment with the QoC Network
- Support to the development and implementation of common child health QoC indicators, in collaboration with metrics groups such as the QoC M&E Technical Working Group, Child Health Task Force M&E Subgroup and CHAT
- Collaboration with maternal/newborn QoC leaders, WHO, and UNICEF to adapt existing standards for community level QoC
- Strengthened focus on quality of care as an overarching principle across subgroups
- Foster new multi-sectoral alliances to promote QoC in child health

Membership

- Open to all members across the Task Force interested in improving QoC

Proposed activities/work streams:

- Develop framework for global coordination and country-level engagement in QoC for child health
- Country mapping/situation assessment (UNICEF will work on this), with ongoing updates, to identify current projects (global or bilaterals) that Task Force members have in countries that can contribute to defining the approach for country engagement and support to district efforts of institutionalizing QoC improvement efforts.
- Develop brief ‘engagement practices’ for pediatric QoC. ‘Checklist’ style - compile/collate resources
- Work streams to focus on different levels of care: advocacy, QoC in community, PHC facility, referral level facility
 - For community, ensure alignment across maternal/newborn/child as this is identified gap for the whole continuum
- Additional ideas as developed by Task Force membership
 - Digital technology to promote QoC for children