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Recruitment for the post of research assistant on temporary basis for “the Pilot Study on the Evaluation of Usability, Acceptability, and Feasibility of Implementing the World Health Organization Labour Care Guide” conducted by the Intranatal and Newborn Care Unit, Family Health Bureau in 2024

Duties and responsibilities

- Facilitating training workshops at the participating hospitals to train the healthcare workers on WHO LCG
- Data collection – Collect data from BHTs on all deliveries occurring during the study period in the assigned unit of the selected hospital, as per the data extraction form. Interview mothers in the postnatal ward, whose labour was managed using the WHO LCG.
- Facilitating focus group discussions
- Support with data entering, analysis and report writing

Desired qualifications and experience for the post

- Pre-intern medical graduate with M.B.B.S. qualification
- Hard-working and motivated individuals
- Ability to work with Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, etc.)
- Previous experience in scientific research, data collection, data entry and analysis will be preferred.
- Good command of English and Sinhala and/or Tamil languages.
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work independently and within a team

Duration

- For a period of five (3) months (September 2024 – December 2024)

Nature of work:

- **Full time/ part time** : Full time
- **No of days per week** : Seven (7) days
- **Place of work** : Assigned to a hospital, either Castle Street Hospital for Women, Colombo North Teaching Hospital, or Base Hospital Homagama.
- **Working hours per day:** Eight (8) hours - 8.00 am to 4.00 pm

Monthly remuneration: LKR. 66,750.00

(Basic salary – LKR 48,950.00 + Cost of living allowance -17,800.00)

Candidates are requested to email an updated CV including copies of relevant documents, and contact details to newbornunit.fhb@gmail.com before 07.09.2024.

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Background and Justification

Childbirth is a significant event in a woman's life, and ensuring safe and effective care during labour is crucial for both maternal and neonatal health outcomes. Although the majority of pregnancies and deliveries proceed without incident, every pregnancy carries inherent risks. Approximately 15% of pregnant mothers will encounter a serious complication that necessitates expert medical attention, and a subset may need significant obstetric intervention to ensure survival. Therefore, it is essential to ensure sufficient monitoring of women during labour to prevent adverse birth outcomes. Presently, this monitoring is achieved by systematically filling out a partograph based on ongoing clinical evaluations throughout labour.

Based on this evidence, WHO updated the definitions and durations for the first and second stages of labour and published a consolidated set of recommendations on intrapartum care for a positive childbirth experience in February 2018.

To facilitate the implementation of these recommendations, WHO introduced the Labour Care Guide (LCG) in 2020. This tool aims to support the provision of high-quality, evidence-based, and respectful care during labour and childbirth, regardless of the healthcare setting or level. The principal aims of the LCG are to guide the monitoring and documentation of the well-being of women and babies during labour, facilitate supportive care to ensure a positive childbirth experience, aid in the prompt identification and management of emerging labour complications, prevent unnecessary interventions, and support audit and quality improvement in labour management (WHO 2020).

It is planned to evaluate the usability, acceptability, and feasibility of the implementation of the WHO LCG.

The selected sites are 1) Castle Street Hospital for Women, 2) Colombo North Teaching Hospital, and 3) Base Hospital Homagama

This initiative will provide invaluable insights for scaling up the implementation of the LCG to other facilities, including staff training.

Activity

The WHO Labour Care Guide (LCG) will be piloted in the three selected hospitals for a period of three months. The evaluation of the usability, acceptability, and feasibility of the implementation will be conducted using a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative methods. Women, whose labour was managed using the WHO LCG in the four maternity wards of the three hospitals—namely, Castle Street Hospital for Women (Wards 1 and 9), Colombo North Teaching Hospital (University Unit/Ward 25), and Base Hospital Homagama (Ward 7)—will be included as study participants. A data extraction sheet will be used to collect essential information at different points in the care pathway from enrollment to the discharge.

Monitoring and supportive supervision will be carried out by Consultant Obstetricians, senior registrars/registrar in Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Senior House Officers, and nursing sisters during the evaluation period to ensure correct adherence to the WHO LCG during labour. Midway through the study, and at the end of the LCG initiation, in-depth interviews and a focus group discussion will be conducted with healthcare providers to assess their concerns, acceptability, and the barriers and facilitators to implementing the WHO LCG in all four hospitals. Healthcare providers' satisfaction with the WHO LCG will be assessed quantitatively using a self-administered questionnaire after two months of LCG usage. Satisfaction levels will be measured for individual sections of the LCG as well as overall, using a 5-point Likert scale.

Data analysis will be conducted using descriptive statistics to summarize participant responses. Qualitative data from interviews and focus group discussions will be analyzed thematically to identify common themes and patterns.

For these activities, additional human resources are required for data collection, facilitating in-depth interviews, conducting focus group discussions, and performing data entry and analysis. A pre-intern medical graduate is needed at each hospital to handle the following duties and responsibilities for a period of three months.

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Duration

- For a period of five (3) months (September 2024 – December 2024)

Nature of work:

- **Full time/ part time** : Full time
- **No of days per week** : 7 days
- **Place of work** : Assigned to a hospital, either Castle Street Hospital for Women, Colombo North Teaching Hospital, or Base Hospital Homagama
- **Working hours per day:** Eight (8) hours - 8.00 am to 4.00 pm

Monthly remuneration: LKR. 66,750.00

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NB :

- The selection of pre-intern medical graduates will be conducted via interviews, with final decisions made by the Family Health Bureau, Ministry of Health.
- The pre-intern medical graduate is eligible only for the benefits specified by the Ministry of Health or the funding agency, with no additional privileges or claims.
- The Director Maternal and Child Health, Family Health Bureau reserves the right to adjust or amend the scope of work as needed.

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 Director Maternal and Child Health
 Family Health Bureau

Date: 30/8/24

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 Dr. Himali Herath
 Coordinating Consultant

Date : 29.08.24

Dr. Loshan N. Moonesinghe
 Deputy Director - Covering up
 Family Health Bureau