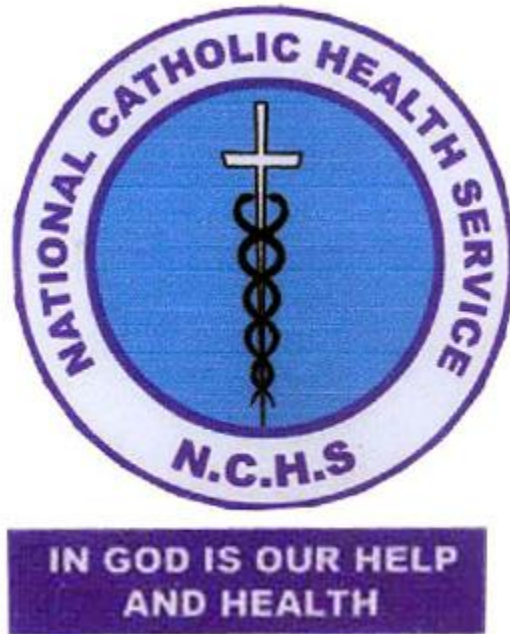


## **INTERPRACTICE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PROJECT**



### **REPORT ON TRAINING FOR INTERPRACTICE- 21<sup>ST</sup> E-LEARNING MODULE (PRETERM INFANT FEEDING AND GROWTH MONITORING) AT TWO HOSPITALS, GHANA**

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## INTRODUCTION

The aims of Interpractice 21<sup>st</sup> project is to promote the use of the INTERGROWTH-21<sup>st</sup> protocols (<https://intergrowth21.tghn.org/>) to standardize preterm postnatal growth monitoring and feeding practices using breastmilk. The appropriate use of these tools would hopefully ensure improved growth monitoring, development and survival of preterm infants. Ultimately, the INTERPRACTICE-21<sup>st</sup> seeks to gain high level policy support for global acceptance and use of the standards for monitoring preterm babies and infants up to the age of five through integration of the growth charts into clinical practice. Collaborating with INTERPRACTICE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY, the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) seeks to advance knowledge on prematurity and promote widespread acceptance and use of the monitoring tools through its e learning course on “Assessing Newborn Growth by Anthropometry and Preterm Infant Feeding and Growth Monitoring. The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research in Geneva was established to provide opportunities for continuous professional education and research especially for low- and middle-income countries.

The National Catholic Health Service (NCHS), Ghana collaborates with the Interpractice 21<sup>st</sup> Century Consortium to test the applicability and advance context-specific knowledge of the INTERGROWTH-21<sup>st</sup> tools and feeding practices. The Holy Family Hospital, Techiman, is the implementation site for INTERPRACTICE-21<sup>ST</sup> Project in Ghana.

In accordance with the goal of the Interpractice 21<sup>st</sup> project to ensure widespread awareness and use of the monitoring tools, the NCHS in collaboration and with support from GFMER organised an online training for staff who work with new-borns in two of its district hospitals: Holy Family hospital, Techiman and St Theresa’s Hospital, Nkoranza. The training sessions were held on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> January and Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 respectively at the two sites.

## **SUMMARY OF TRAINING AT HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL TECHIMAN.**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> 2019**

The training which lasted eleven hours commenced at 8:00 GMT with welcoming of three supervisors from the NCHS headquarters in Accra (the capital city of Ghana). These supervisors included two coordinators for community and institutional care (past beneficiaries of GFMER) who would provide direct supervision and technical support when necessary to the project in Ghana and one monitoring and evaluation manager. The country coordinator and principal investigator on the project gave a brief overview of the INTERPRACTICE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY project and explained the importance of the monitoring tools for preterm infant management. She also introduced the staff to GFMER/OMPHI e-learning courses and stated that beyond the INTERPRACTICE 21<sup>st</sup> courses, staff could enrol for other online courses. She emphasised the need for all staff participating in the course to be agents of spread for the course and use of the tools. She also indicated that staff needed to make a pass mark of 80% to obtain certification.

The module taken was, Preterm infant feeding and growth monitoring.

For effective support and monitoring of the training process and for lack of space and access to computers, staff were put into groups of maximum twenty per batch. In anticipation of poor/breakage in internet access, module contents were made available in soft and hardcopies to registered staff for their study two days prior to the training. This intervention provided some speed and increased the pass rate of the course.

Each round lasted an average of three hours, staff who failed on first attempt had the opportunity of retaking the course and staffs who were unable to complete the course within the period continued from home and showed evidence of completion and pass for their certificates.

Certificates were presented to staff who completed all 3 modules and obtained a score of 80% or more.

### **Highlights of training**

1. The presence of past beneficiaries of GFMER courses enabled a quick appreciation and negotiation of the GFMER webpages, as there was ready solution to almost every problem related to accessing the webpages.
2. Prior access to module content, boosted confidence of participating staff and encouraged more staff to join.
3. The organizers planned the training for 50 staff who directly encounter preterm infants, but as staff shared their experiences, more staff who had not been registered joined the training and so there was a 100% increment of trained staff over planned staffs.
4. The Holy Family Hospital has a midwifery training institution. When the Principal of the College heard about the courses, she made a request for training of her staff.

### **Challenges of training**

1. Intermittent interruption in power and internet supply.
2. There was no direct link at the courses page to “Assessing New-born Growth by Anthropometry” course. The link was within the Preterm Infant Feeding and Growth Monitoring Modules, so facilitators were unsure of full participation of staffs in that course.

### **SUMMARY OF FACILITATORS**

	NAME	DESIGNATION	Facility	ROLE
1.	Dr. Jacqueline Asibey	Senior Pediatrician Specialist (senior Coordinator for the Project)	Techiman Holy Family hospital	Lead Facilitator
2.	Dr Anita Appiah	Head of Community and Institutional Care	NCHS-Head Office, Accra	Facilitator
3.	Miss Roberta Asiedu	Head of Nursing Care	NCHS-Head Office, Accra	Facilitator
4	Mr Ivan Essegbey	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	NCHS-Head Office, Accra	Facilitator

### **CADRE OF STAFF TRAINED**

<b>RANK</b>	<b>NO OF STAFF</b>
Paediatrician	1
Medical Officer	1
Medical Doctors (Interns)	5
Medical Students	3
Physician Assistant	1
Physician Assistants (Interns)	10
Physician Assistants (Students)	14
Paediatric Nurse	1

Midwives	46
General Nurse	14
Enrolled Nurse	8
Nutritionist	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105</b>

**SUMMARY OF TRAINING AT ST THERESA’S HOSPITAL NKORANZA, FRIDAY**  
**25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019**

The training at St Theresa’s Hospital Nkoranza began at 9:00 am unlike the Holy Family Hospital. A prayer was said by the Paediatrician Specialist of the hospital followed by introduction of guests from Accra and Dr. Asibey the PI on the project. The paediatrician introduced the purpose of the training and welcomed the guests to the facility.

As was done previously at Holy Family Hospital, Dr. Asibey presented the overview of the INTERPRACTICE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY project and the GFMER collaboration for training. She indicated that the pass mark for the course was 80%.

The module taken was: Preterm infant feeding and growth monitoring.

Staffs were also put into groups of 10 -20 for good facilitation and monitoring of training. Each round lasted approximately 3hours. Staff also received course contents prior to the training and so it was easy to study the content at home and move faster while on the internet. The two paediatricians at this site were very resourceful as they each took turns to explain any difficulties with understanding of the content.

Certificates were presented to staff who completed all 3 modules and obtained a score of 80% or more.

Highlight from this sight was an invitation from a paediatrician from another-Catholic Hospital for the training course to come to her facility.

Challenges were not too different from what was experienced in Holy Family Hospital.

**CADRE OF STAFF TRAINED**

<b>ST THERESA'S HOSPITAL NKORANZA</b>	
<b>RANK</b>	<b>NO OF STAFF</b>
Paediatrician	1
Medical Officer	1
Physician Assistants (Interns)	5
Medical Students	2
Midwives	10
General Nurse	13
Paediatric Nurse	1
Enrolled Nurse	5
Public Health Nurses	9
Customer Care Personnel	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>

**SUMMARY OF FACILITATORS**

	NAME	DESIGNATION	Facility	ROLE
1.	Dr. Jacqueline Asibey	Senior Pediatrician Specialist (senior Coordinator for the Project)	Techiman Holy Family hospital	Lead Facilitator
2.	Dr Anita Appiah	Head of Clinical Care	NCHS-Head Office, Accra	Facilitator
3.	Miss Roberta Asiedu	Head of Nursing Care	NCHS-Head Office, Accra	Facilitator
4	Mr Ivan Essegbey	IT Specialist	NCHS-Head Office, Accra	Facilitator



### **EVALUATION OF THE TRAINING AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Evaluation of the training was done by participants with regards to course content, design, duration and its impact on their clinical practice. The feedback from the evaluation forms was highly positive.

90-95% of the staff filled the evaluation form at both sites. 85-90% answered each question on the evaluation form at both sites.

Most participants commented that the course was very educative and would impact their practice. Some recommended that course should be done several times in the year. A few commented that the contents of the first module was bulky and recommended it could be divided into two modules.

Some recommended more of such modules be developed and regular training be incorporated into clinical care (at twice a year course).

A sample of the evaluation form will be attached to this report.

## **APPENDIX 1 – EVALUATION FORM**

### **HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL TECHIMAN/OXFORD MATERNAL AND PERINATAL HEALTH INSTITUTE**

#### **EVALUATION FORM**

**EVENT TITLE: INTERPRACTICE- 21<sup>ST</sup> E-LEARNING MODULE (PRETERM INFANT FEEDING AND GROWTH MONITORING: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERGROWTH-21<sup>ST</sup> PROTOCOL)**

**DATE: 25TH JANUARY, 2019 TIME:8AM – 5PM**

**VENUE: CONFERENCE ROOM, ST THERESA’S HOSPITAL- NKORANZA**

**RANK OF STAFF.....**

**1. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR RATING OF THE COURSE IN THE CATEGORIES BELOW BY CIRCLING THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER, USING SCALE OF:**

**1(POOR)    2(FAIR)    3(GOOD)    4(VERY GOOD)    5 (EXCELLENT)**

**Module 1(Background on preterm birth)**

<b>No</b>	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
1	Course Content					
2	Duration of Course					

3	Course Design					

## Module 2 (Gastro-Intestinal Development in Preterm Infants)

No	Presentation	1	2	3	4	5
1	Course Content					
2	Duration of Course					
3	Course Design					

## Module 3 (Feeding recommendations for the routine care of preterm infants)

No	Presentation	1	2	3	4	5
1	Course Content					
2	Duration of Course					
3	Course Design					

2. How useful or relevant did you find this information with regards to your professional practice?

Extremely useful [ ] Useful [ ] fairly useful [ ] Not useful [ ]

If this event was not useful, please explain why

.....  
.....

3. What did you like most about this course?

.....  
.....

4. Please write down any additional comments or suggestions to improve the course

.....  
.....  
.....

**THANK YOU**

## APPENDIX 2 - PICTURE GALLERY



*Image 1: Presentation by Senior Coordinator*



*Image 2: Addressing Staff present is Dr. Anita Appiah from the NCHS Head office, Accra*



*Image 3: Training Session*





*Image 4: Session of Staff and Personnel from Accra*





*Image 5: Training Session*



*Image 6: Session of Staff with Coordinator and Supervisors from Accra - Techiman Holy Family Hospital*



*Figure 7: Presentation of Certificates at Techiman Holy Family Hospital*





*Image 8: Presentation of Certificates-St Theresa's hospital Nkoranza*