

IMPROVING PRETERM FEEDING AND KANGAROO MOTHER CARE (KMC) PRACTICES IN THE NEONATAL NURSERY AT PRINCE MSHIYENI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (PMMH) - A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Dr Pranasha Appalsamy, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health UKZN, pranasha_appalsamy@yahoo.com

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:

- In 2022 - 2023, prematurity accounted for 44.4% of neonatal deaths at PMMH.
- KMC and feeding are key interventions for preventative and promotive care according to recent WHO recommendations.

Preterm or low-birth-weight infant

PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED:

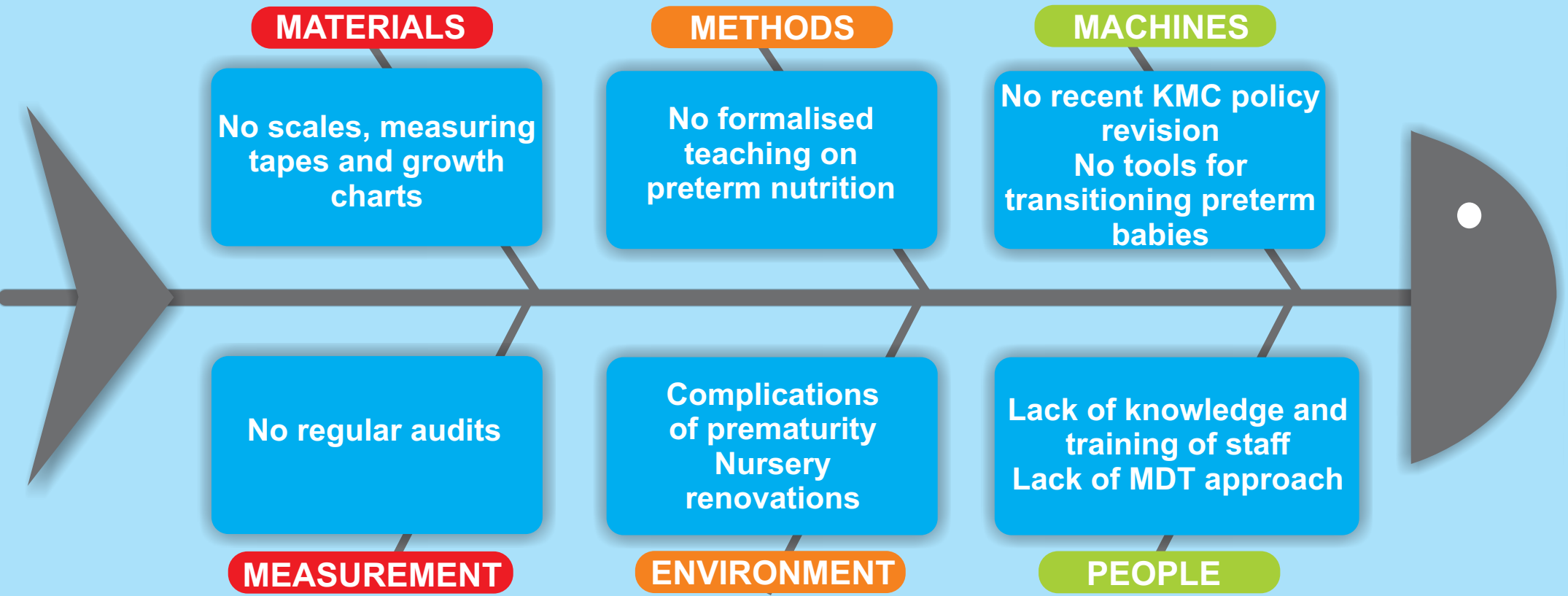
- Growth of preterm babies not monitored.
- Delayed identification and referral of preterm babies with extra - uterine growth restriction (EUGR).
- Feeds not fortified as prescribed.
- No oral transition feeding guideline for preterm babies.
- Poor scores on KMC skills audit.

AIMS:

- Monitor preterm growth trends.
- Early identification of EUGR and intervention.
- Align preterm feeding practices with provincial guidelines.
- Improve and upscale KMC in all babies, including those that are critically ill.

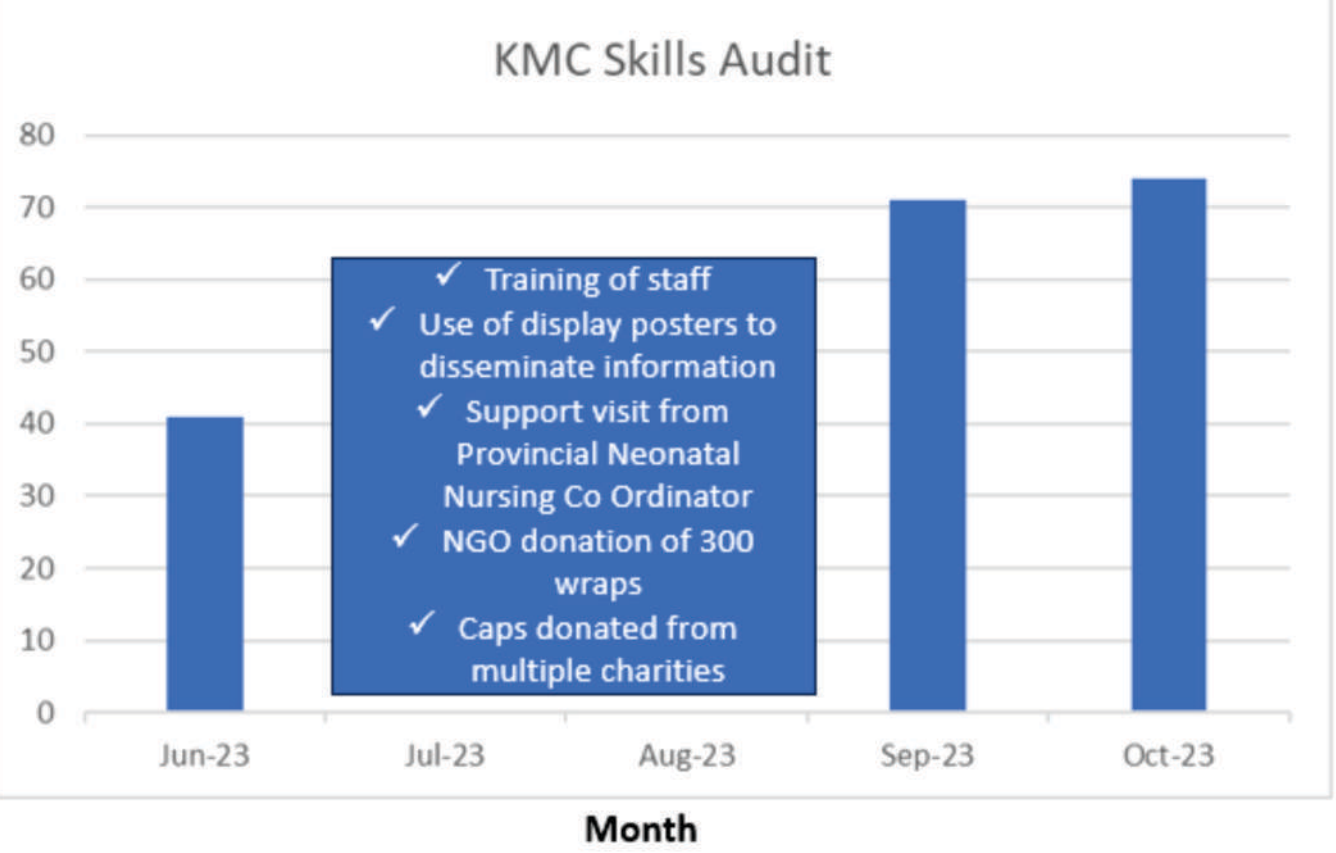
- #### A. Preventative and promotive care
- Cord care
 - Kangaroo mother care
 - Thermal care
 - Feeding
 - Micronutrients
 - Probiotics
 - Emollients
 - Developmental care
 - Massage
 - Positioning
 - Immunization
 - Surveillance of growth, neuro development, hearing, vision, disability

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS:



RESULTS:

- Preterm babies are weighed daily and recorded on daily assessment and weight charts. Lengths and head circumferences are measured weekly.
- Oral readiness and management tool implemented.
- MDT approach adopted for feeding preterm babies.
- KMC practices in our unit have improved from 41% to 74%.



CONCLUSIONS:

- Preterm growth monitoring, identification of growth failure and early referral has improved.
- Early onset oral stimulation for preterm babies is becoming standard of practice.
- Tools for oral transitioning of preterm babies implemented.
- The practice of KMC continues to improve as per audit scores.

REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Perinatal Problem Identification Programme 2.0, Neonatal deaths 2022 - 2023 WHO recommendations for care of the preterm or low birth weight infant. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO
 KZN Neonatal Essential Package of Care
 Dr E van Rooyen, Prof A Kritzinger (UP)
 Sr Ruth Davidge
 Dr Niree Naidoo, Ms Nicole Govender, Ms Kubashnee Naidoo
 Sr L Nyawose and the nursery team PMMH
 Department of Paediatrics PMMH

KMC Training Workshops: Swallowing and Breastfeeding Intervention

Dr Elise van Rooyen* and Prof. Alta Kritzinger**

*Department of Paediatrics, Kalafong Hospital University of Pretoria elise.vanrooyen@up.ac.za

**Registered Speech-Language Therapist, Professor Emerita Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology University of Pretoria alta.kritzinger@up.ac.za

Please scan this QR code to access our resources on Preterm Nutrition and KMC

Procuring scales, tape measures, growth charts and training staff on accurate measurements

Educational Training of staff on growth monitoring and classification

Referral criteria tool created

Prescribing fortifiers on feeding charts for better flow

METHODS

Procure KMC wraps, Skills Audits and Training of staff including high care.

Audits

Implement Preterm Oral Feeding Readiness Checklist and Management Checklist for Preterm Oral Feeding

Swallowing and breastfeeding Intervention Workshop (UP), MDT approach (SLT and dietician) - create a guide for oral stimulation