

Population Council Knowledge Commons

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Communication during hospitalization

Breakthrough RESEARCH

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COMMUNICATION DURING HOSPITALIZATION

HEALTHCARE
PROVIDERS



Introduce yourself and your role Be respectful, polite, and empathetic Use local language and speak slowly PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS

ADMISSION



Introduce yourself and your child Be respectful, polite, and patient

Explain and decide on the child's care plan with parents/caregivers and provider team

Provide regular updates to parents and family



Ask for information about your hospitalized child's care plan

Voice your opinion about your child's care

promptly Listen carefully to parents'/caregivers' questions and concerns Answer any questions or concerns raised by parents/caregivers or refer appropriately		plan Raise questions about your child's care Ask for updates on your child's treatment plan
Allow and actively engage parent/caregiver participation in ward rounds Explain clinical results and child's progress to parents/caregivers during ward rounds	<section-header></section-header>	Ask for an explanation of your child's progress during ward rounds Seek information on test results and next steps in care
Explain the feeding methods for sick children, why, and how often to feed their child Counsel the mother on breastfeeding and coach her on how to express breast milk if child cannot suckle Show parents/caregivers how to feed their child and how to use weight charts	<section-header></section-header>	 If your child is less than 6 months old exclusively breastfeed your child and ask how to breastfeed or express breast milk If your child is more than 6 months old, feed your child a balanced diet and breastfeed on demand If your child is unable to eat by mouth, ask to participate in feeding your child Assist in filling information on your child feeding and weight charts

Explain why the NGT procedure is needed and ally any concerns Explain how the procedure will be done and	INSERTION OF NASAL GASTRIC TUBES (NGT)	Support the provider during tube insertion by soothing, comforting, and talking to your child
ensure the child's pain and/or discomfort is minimized	T.F.	Support the provider in caring for the tubes and follow infection prevention rules
Explain how to care for the child after the NGT insertion		Ask if you can participate in NGT feeding and for the provider to demonstrate NGT feeding
Demonstrate feeding methods so parents can support their child (including care of the tubes)		Note: your child's feeding method may change from time to time depending on your child's condition
Inform the parents/caregivers about the procedure, why it is required, and what is involved	INTRAVENOUS (IV) CANNULAS FOR TREATMENT	Use comfort measures as needed (swaddling, non-nutritive suckling, warmth, shield child's eyes from direct lighting)
procedure, why it is required, and what is	CANNULAS FOR	non-nutritive suckling, warmth, shield child's
procedure, why it is required, and what is involved Allow the parents/caregiver to be present and encourage them to help comfort the infant if	CANNULAS FOR	non-nutritive suckling, warmth, shield child's eyes from direct lighting) Help the provider check for signs of inflammation (swelling, pain, coolness of

Orient the parents/caregivers on the ward environment, use of bathrooms, and sleeping areas for parents/caregivers

Ask about the ward environment and visitation policies

Share information on the use of feeding spaces and incubators

Explain infection prevention control measures on hand washing and wearing masks

Explain facility policies on visitation and family members

Ensure a calm and soothing environment for sleep by minimising bright lights and loud noises

Coach the caregiver on how to reduce pain and discomfort by breastfeeding, swaddling, cuddling, singing/humming, suckling for soothing, and skin-to-skin care when in the hospital and to practice upon discharge WARD ENVIRONMENT (INCLUDING FEEDING, SLEEPING)



Seek information for your comfort and safety, as well as warmth and safety of your child such as cots, rails, and warmers

Seek information on how to support sleep and minimise your child's pain during and after procedures

Follow provider's advice on how to breastfeed, swaddle, sing or hum, suckle for soothing, and skin-to-skin care

Inform providers when child shows signs of distress

Provide feedback to the provider on experience of care (complete the exit forms using phone, SMS, or suggestion box)







