

7.1 and 7.2. RECOMMENDATION:
Should AUXILIARY NURSE MIDWIVES (a) initiate and (b) maintain kangaroo mother care for low birth weight infants?

Problem: Low utilisation of kangaroo mother care for low birth weight infants
Option: Auxiliary nurse midwives initiating and maintaining kangaroo mother care
Comparison: Usual care
Setting: Community/primary health care settings in LMICs

Recommendation	<i>We recommend against the option</i>	<i>We suggest considering the option with targeted monitoring and evaluation</i>	<i>We recommend the option</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We suggest considering the option with targeted monitoring and evaluation. We suggest using this intervention where auxiliary nurse midwives are already an established cadre.			
Justification	There is insufficient evidence on the effectiveness and feasibility of auxiliary nurse midwives initiating kangaroo mother care for low birth weight infants. However, the intervention may have important benefits and is probably feasible and acceptable. It may also reduce inequalities by extending care to underserved populations. We therefore suggest considering the option with targeted monitoring and evaluation, with particular attention given to different birthweight subgroups.		
Implementation considerations	<p>The following should be considered when using auxiliary nurse midwives to initiate and maintain kangaroo mother care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The relevant professional bodies should be involved in the planning and implementation of the intervention to ensure acceptability among affected health workers - Local beliefs and practical circumstances related to the health conditions in question should be addressed within the programme design - The distribution of roles and responsibilities between auxiliary nurse midwives and other health workers needs to be made clear, including through regulations and job descriptions - Changes in regulations may be necessary to support any changes in auxiliary nurse midwives' scope of practice - Implementation needs to be in the context of a comprehensive remuneration scheme, in which salaries or incentives reflect any changes in scope of practice. Giving incentives for certain tasks but not for others may negatively affect the work that is carried out - Referral systems need to function well, i.e. financial, logistical (e.g. transport) and relational barriers need to be addressed. Specifically, local health systems need to be strengthened to improve quality of care at the first referral facility - Supplies of drugs and other commodities (e.g. delivery kits) need to be secure - Responsibility for supervision needs to be clear and supervision needs to be regular and supportive - Auxiliary nurse midwives and their supervisors need to receive appropriate initial and ongoing training 		
Monitoring and evaluation	Monitoring and evaluation should focus on different weight categories to ensure that babies with birth weight less than 1500 grams are not adversely affected.		
Research priorities			