

4.1. RECOMMENDATION:

Should NURSES diagnose preterm pre-labour rupture of membranes (pPROM) and deliver initial treatment of injectable antibiotics, using a standard syringe, before referral?

Problem: Poor access to injectable antibiotics for pPROM
Option: Nurses delivering injectable antibiotics for pPROM
Comparison: Care delivered by other cadres or no care
Setting: Community/primary health care settings in LMICs with poor access to health professionals

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. As there are questions about whether nurses have the skills and equipment to make the diagnosis, the intervention should be implemented where nurses are trained to give injections and in care for pregnant women.			
Justification	There is insufficient evidence on the effectiveness of nurses diagnosing preterm pre-labour rupture of membranes (pPROM) and delivering initial treatment of injectable antibiotics, using a standard syringe, before referral. However, this is probably an acceptable and feasible approach to the management of preterm PROM. It may also reduce inequalities in settings where access to more highly trained providers is limited.		
Implementation considerations	The following should be considered when using nurses to deliver antibiotics to treat preterm PROM: <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 - The distribution of roles and responsibilities between nurses 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 nurses' 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 need to be secure - Responsibility for supervision needs to be clear and supervision needs to be regular and supportive - Nurses and their supervisors need to receive appropriate initial and ongoing training 		
Monitoring and evaluation			
Research priorities	Studies assessing the effects and the acceptability of using nurses to deliver injectable antibiotics to treat preterm PROM in LMICs are needed		