Healthcare Organization Commitment

Contact Details

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Commitment Details

Commitment Name
Improved patient safety through routine pulse oximetry screening for neonates in low-resource global health settings

What Patient Safety Challenge does your Commitment address?
Challenge 7A - Optimal neonatal oxygen targeting

Commitment Start Date
01/02/2017
Commitment Summary
This commitment aims to improve newborn patient safety and reduce neonatal mortality by 25% by accelerating adoption of point-of-care pulse oximetry screening for all newborns. The BORN Project (Birth Oximetry Routine for Newborns) is being implemented at rural hospitals in China and the Philippines. Unlike routine CCHD screening in the U.S., pulse oximetry screening in low-resource settings has a significantly great impact on non-target conditions such as sepsis and pneumonia. These conditions carry a high disease burden in both countries and are highly treatable with earlier diagnosis. The project is deploying unique protocols, training methods and special attention to followup diagnostics and referrals to higher level facilities with more advanced neonatal and pediatric care.

Commitment Description & Detail
Since 2013, the Newborn Foundation has worked with the governments of China and the Philippines to advance universal pulse oximetry screening. The project includes:

32 China birth hospitals in Gansu and Sichuan provinces: 44,342 births
Estimated lives saved with screening protocol implemented in pilot: 143
Estimated lives saved with screening protocol implemented country wide: 31,500

25 Philippine birth hospitals: 72,000 births
Estimated lives saved with screening protocol implemented: 234
Estimated lives saved with screening protocol implemented country wide: 6,109

The data collected through this period will be provided to regional and national level policy makers and health agencies – and will help inform other nations as to viable program development and implementation strategies that can reduce preventable newborn deaths through earlier detection of critical “hidden” health problems.

Action Plan
The Newborn Foundation is providing technical support and educational resources for public health programs and hospitals to implement routine newborn pulse oximetry screening, including: 1) Providing open source, downloadable videos, flip charts, posters and lanyards, equipment and telemedicine resources for screening. 2) Providing a robust data collection method 3) Continue working with public health leaders to educate on the broader benefits of early detection of hypoxemia or respiratory issues through pulse oximetry screening as a tool with the aim of reducing neonatal mortality and morbidity from neonatal sepsis, pneumonia, and other “hidden” illnesses.

Commitment Timeline
March 2017 - February 2018