

MEET YOUR FACILITATOR
FOR THIS SESSION



**PROF. ZUBAIDA
FAROUK**



ICSA LEARNING SERIES

MODULE 1 · SESSION 4

Birth Asphyxia



Wed 5 Aug, 2026



10:00 – 10:30 AM WAT



Certificate of Participation
Attend 75% of Module 1 sessions to earn
your certificate.

REGISTER FREE - ON ZOOM

<https://bit.ly/cslearningseriesregistration>

**SCAN TO
REGISTER:**



Welcome

PRETEST



Learning Certification Requirement

Attend at least 70% of the Module 1 sessions

Be present for at least 70% of each learning session

Complete both the pre- and post-session assessments for at least 70% of the sessions attended.



RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO BIRTH ASPHYXIA

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Learning Objectives

- Recognize birth asphyxia
- Initiate HBB sequence
- Stabilize and refer

Every
Child
Matters

Why This Matters

- Birth asphyxia—the failure to initiate and sustain breathing at birth—is one of the leading causes of neonatal death
- The burden falls heavily on primary health centres like yours.
- Many of you are the first—and sometimes the only—skilled birth attendants present when a baby is born.
- Basic resuscitating equipment is often lacking at the PHCs , and many health workers have limited experience with bag-and-mask ventilation .

- But here is the good news:
- Most babies with asphyxia need only simple interventions—drying, warming, stimulation, and ventilation—to survive.
- Neonatal resuscitation training can improve knowledge from baseline levels to 100% immediately after training, and can reduce neonatal mortality by up to 47% .
- Your role is crucial.

Understanding Birth Asphyxia

- Birth asphyxia occurs when a newborn fails to initiate or sustain breathing at birth . This happens because the baby does not get enough oxygen before, during, or immediately after delivery.

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Causes in Our Context

- Common causes you may see in your communities include:
 - Prolonged or obstructed labour
 - Cord around the neck
 - Meconium-stained liquor
 - Prematurity
 - Maternal illness or poor nutrition

Asphyxia can be silent.

- Here is what is critical to understand:
- Asphyxia can be silent. The baby may look normal at first, then deteriorate rapidly. As a community health worker, you must be prepared at every delivery.

Golden Minute

- Ventilation within first 60 seconds
- The "Golden Minute" is the first 60 seconds of life. If a baby is not breathing, you have 60 seconds to initiate ventilation . Every second counts.

Helping Babies Breathe

- Prepare
- Dry & warm
- Assess
- Airway
- Stimulate
- Ventilate



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Bag & Mask Ventilation

- Neutral head
- Correct mask
- 40 breaths/min
- Look for chest rise

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What NOT To Do

- Cold water
- Slapping/shaking
- Wait and see
- Drugs



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Stabilization & Referral

- When to refer
- You should refer any baby who:
 - Does not respond to ventilation after 60 seconds
 - Has persistent central cyanosis (blue color)
 - Has a heart rate below 60 beats per minute
 - Is born prematurely or with other complications

How to refer

Stabilize First: Ensure the baby is warm and, if possible, ventilate during transport.

- 2. Call Ahead: If possible, call the referral facility to prepare them.
- 3. Accompany the Baby: If you are able, accompany the baby to ensure continuity of care. If not, ensure the referral notes are clear and complete.
- 4. Document Everything: Record what you did, the baby's response, and the time of referral.

When You Cannot Refer

- In some very remote areas, referral may not be possible. Continue ventilation while awaiting help. The National Guidelines for Comprehensive Newborn Care recognize that in some settings, this is the reality . Do your best with the resources you have.

Key Messages

- Be prepared
- Act fast
- Ventilate
- Avoid harmful practices
- Refer

Every
Child
Matters

Q & A



POST TEST



Next Session - Overview of Module 1

covers the critical first days of life, equipping frontline health workers with expert-led, practical knowledge on newborn care, from birth through the first weeks of life.

PERIOD	TOPIC	PRESENTER	DATE
1	Essential Newborn Care Thermal care, cord care, breastfeeding, infection prevention, danger signs	Assoc. Prof. Ezenwa Beatrice	Wed, 24 Jun 2024
2	Newborn Danger Signs Recognition drills, triage exercises, caregiver counselling	Prof. Zubaida Farouk	Wed, 8 Jul 2026
3	Neonatal Resuscitation Bag-and-mask simulation, team scenarios, equipment readiness	Assoc. Prof. Ezenwa Beatrice	Wed, 22 Jul 2026
4	Birth Asphyxia Stabilization simulation, referral decision-making, case review	Prof. Zubaida Farouk	Wed, 5 Aug 2026
5	Preterm & Low Birth Weight Care Kangaroo mother care, feeding plans, referral guidance	Assoc. Prof. Ezenwa Beatrice	Wed, 19 Aug 2026
6	Neonatal Jaundice Severity assessment, referral timing, caregiver counselling roleplay	Prof. Zubaida Farouk	Wed, 2 Sep 2026
7	Neonatal Sepsis Risk factors, first-line management, referral pathway mapping	Assoc. Prof. Ezenwa Beatrice	Wed, 16 Sep 2026
8	Vaccine Hesitancy & Risk Communication Rumour management, roleplay, community engagement planning	Prof. Zubaida Farouk	Wed, 30 Sep 2026
9	Interactive Review — Periods 1–8 Case presentations, knowledge quiz, experience sharing	Module Facilitators	Wed, 14 Oct 2026

Thank You

