

Mistreatment of newborns (examples)

Physical abuse

- Slapping infant or immersing in cold water for resuscitation
- Suctioning without medical indication
- Unnecessary painful medical procedures
- Non-gentle or unsafe handling or shaking of newborn

Health systems conditions and constraints

- Not enough providers for mother - newborn
- No/limited skills for newborn care
- Unavailable or insufficient equipment for newborn care
- Room cold or dirty
- Newborn left alone or unattended

Verbal abuse

- Women blamed for poor neonatal outcomes, small infant, female newborn
- Small, sick or disabled newborns - "defective"

Poor rapport between women & providers

- Women blamed for poor neonatal outcomes, small infant, female newborn
- Unnecessary separation of mother/ parent/ caregiver and newborn
- Non-consented treatment of newborn
- Lack of breastfeeding, thermal care or other postpartum support

Stigma and discrimination

- Discrimination against poor, illiterate, minority, patients
- Some babies considered "too sick to save"
- Denial or threatened denial of postnatal care because home-born
- Denial of vaccination card for home-born
- Discrimination against twins
- Discrimination against female infants

Legal accountability

Bereavement and posthumous care

Failure to meet professional standards

- Unnecessary separation
- Not enough providers
- Lack of/ poor labour monitoring, lack of preparedness for delivery and to receive newborn
- No or insufficient efforts to resuscitate
- No breastfeeding support
- Food restrictions
- Fears of lack of privacy, confidentiality with newborns HIV status
- Non-consented treatment of newborn
- Newborn detained if no payment
- Neglect/ abandonment
- No analgesic/ palliative care options
- Crowded conditions, shared beds
- Early discharge from facility
- No translation or interpretation services
- Unnecessary medical procedures