



TOOLKIT 20 • MATERNAL & NEWBORN • TOOL 1 OF 5

# Safe Childbirth Checklist

The WHO checklist: four pause points — on admission, just before pushing (or caesarean), soon after birth, before discharge — twenty-nine items that address the main causes of maternal and newborn death

| 1 • ON ADMISSION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 2 • JUST BEFORE PUSHING (or before caesarean)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 3 • SOON AFTER BIRTH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 4 • BEFORE DISCHARGE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <p><i>When the mother is admitted</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the mother need referral? (per criteria) — if yes, organise</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Partograph started (when cervix ≥ 4 cm)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the mother need to start antibiotics? (temp ≥ 38, foul discharge, rupture &gt; 18 h)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the mother need magnesium sulphate and antihypertensives? (BP ≥ 160/110 or ≥ 140/90 with headache/visual/epigastric signs)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> HIV status known and treatment planned</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Confirm supplies available for the mother: gloves, soap, water, hand rub</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Confirm supplies for the newborn: clean towel, ambu bag and mask, suction, cord ties</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Companion present and encouraged</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mother knows to call for help if bleeding, severe headache, pain, breathing difficulty, or fever</li> </ul> | <p><i>Second stage</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the mother need referral?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the mother need antibiotics?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the mother need magnesium sulphate and antihypertensives?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Essential supplies at bedside for the mother: oxytocin 10 IU in syringe, gloves, drapes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Essential supplies for the newborn: towel, bag and mask, warm space, cord clamp</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Assistant identified and ready to help at birth</li> </ul> | <p><i>Within 1 hour</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the mother bleeding abnormally? (&gt; 500 ml) — massage uterus, oxytocin, IV fluids, call for help</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the mother need antibiotics? (placenta manually removed, temp ≥ 38, foul discharge)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the mother need magnesium sulphate and antihypertensives?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the newborn need referral?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the newborn need antibiotics? (fever, respiratory difficulty, feeding poorly, mother had infection)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the newborn need special care and monitoring? (&lt; 2.5 kg, preterm, needed resuscitation)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Newborn identified — two bands, matched to the mother</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Breastfeeding started within 1 hour; skin-to-skin</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mother and newborn observed every 15 min for the first 2 hours</li> </ul> | <p><i>Before leaving the facility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mother's bleeding controlled; BP checked; temperature normal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the newborn need referral?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Family planning options discussed and offered</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Newborn feeding well; cord care explained; vaccines given (BCG, OPV0, HepB)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mother and family know the danger signs for both and where to go, day and night</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up visit arranged (within 3 days); mother has written danger-sign card</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Mother (name, no.) • date • birth attendant • companion</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Adapted from the WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist (2015). Items unchanged; thresholds per WHO. Adapt drug availability to local formulary.

**ASF standards:** Hospital Standard 4 — maternity and newborn care (means of verification: completed checklist per birth); Universal Floor