

SECRET

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**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH, NIGER STATE ON
ESTABLISHMENT OF NEONATAL UNIT AT JUMMAI BABANGIDA ALIYU MATERNAL AND NEONATAL
HOSPITAL, MINNA**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform Council of the establishment of a neonatal unit at Jummai Babangida Aliyu Maternal and Neonatal Hospital, Minna, and the efforts of Niger State Government towards improving the survival of premature and low birth weight babies so as to lower neonatal mortality rate in Nigeria.

BACKGROUND

Niger State, with a population of over 5 million people, does not have a well-equipped neonatal care services centre to serve this category of patients. The nearest centre is University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Gwagwalada, which is about 3 hours away from Minna. It is also a recognized fact that neonatal mortality contributes the largest chunk to the under-5 mortality rate in Nigeria. Premature babies are at increased risk of mortality. It is also known that well managed low birth weight babies under regulated conditions have lower incidence of neurological deficits. It is for these reasons that Niger State considered it a worthy investment to establish a multi-million naira, ultra-modern neonatal centre which took off on 27th April, 2017.

THE FACILITY

Towards the success of this 40 bed centre, a dedicated block of several rooms was opened in this Hospital. It was equipped with all gadgets necessary to make it the best in the country. The centre has the following equipment: 18 incubators (16 nursing, 1 errand and 1 transport), 3 newborn resuscitaires, 10 syringe drive, 2 bubble CPAP, 10 oxygen concentrators, centralized oxygen piping system, 6 phototherapy units, 1 infant ventilator, 6 pulse oximeter, 2 mobile oxygen concentrators, 6 glucometers, 15 wall mounted hand sanitizers and 10 KMC recliners. All electronic machines are monitored by alarm system for electrical and treatment regulation failures.

The centre also boasts of 2 Specialist resident paediatricians, 2 more doctors are at advanced level of residency training. There are regular visiting paediatricians from neighbouring specialist centres in Bida and Abuja. There are a total of 33 nurses, 2 of whom are paediatric nurses, and 20 nurse midwives.

All staff received specific treatment including essential newborn care, neonatal infection control, neonatal respiratory support, incubator care/thermo-regulatory support and oxygen therapy and administration. Other support staffs in the laboratory and in the biomedical engineering department were trained in their special roles.

Towards sustainability, a world renowned organization headed by a Nigerian professor and specializing in the provision, training and maintenance of these equipment has been contracted to give regular trouble shooting visits to the centre. The partnership is governed by a memorandum of understanding with Niger State Government.

In terms of logistics, the centre enjoys a 24 hours power supply, through a combination of public mains, generator and solar power banked system. It also enjoys 24 hours dedicated water supply.

Services rendered in this facility are divided into in-born and out born units and neonatal outpatient clinics.

SUCCESSSES

Although the time of 5 months is facility are current major challenges are high ring divided into in born and cost and inadequate staffing yet too short to allow for objective report of the achievements at this centre, hospital data

shows that Nigerlites now have easy access to this specialized care. 2000 patients have been treated at the Centre, 1,300 as inpatients. Survival is also improving. A dedicated research team has however been set up to give a picture of what is achieved over time.

CHALLENGES

Despite all these, current challenges are high running costs, and adequate staffing to cover all the required shifts. Future challenges would be how to bring about required specialists to cater for conditions expected among survivors such as eye diseases and neurological challenges.

PRAYERS

Council is hereby invited to note that:

- i) an ultramodern neonatal unit took off on 27th April, 2017, at Jummai Babangida Aliyu Maternal and Neonatal Hospital, Minna, to increase the survival of preterm and other low birth weight babies
;
- ii) full complements of staff including neonatologists, medical officers, nurses and maintenance staff were trained to guarantee sustainable positive outcome at the Centre;
- iii) regular support for clinical services and maintenance of equipment has been taken into consideration through signing of agreements/memorandum of understanding with specialists and with a world renowned organization in this filed;
- iv) early results are indicative of positive outcome which this kind of investment brings- thousands have been treated and survival improving;
- v) current challenges (high running costs and inadequate personnel) and future challenges (collaboration with neurologists and ophthalmologists to provide more complete care) are being looked into; and
- vi) the efforts of Niger State Government towards improving under-5 mortality rates by establishing an ultramodern unit to cater for pre-term and other low birth weight babies and to urge all States to emulate this.

Honourable Commissioner for Health, Niger State

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