Opportunities and Challenges for Family Integrated Care in Resource-Limited Settings

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Preface

What is a "resource-limited setting"?

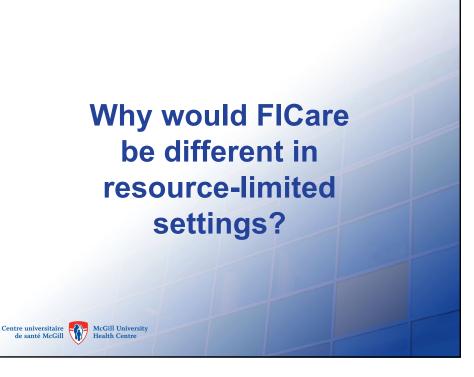
- ☐ No "one-size-fits-all" definition
- ☐ Often a low- or middle-income country
- ☐ Fragile health system with limited critical care capabilities

Our Lens for Understanding Family Integrated Care (FICare)
Opportunities & Challenges in Resource-Limited Settings

- ☐ Pilot trial to test the acceptability & feasibility of FICare in the Special Care Nursery at Jinja Regional Referral Hospital in Jinja, Uganda
 - ☐ Interviews of mothers and staff
 - ☐ Pre-post cohort study (50 babies per group)







Adapted Goals of FICare in Resource-Limited Setting

Family Integrated Care Website

"The goal of FICare is to facilitate a partnership and collaboration between parents and the NICU staff, to promote parent-infant interactions, and to build parent confidence."

These goals were reflected in our interviews of Ugandan mothers and staff

Mother

"you will start being confident & know that whatever you are measuring is right"

Healthcare Worker

"there will be mother-to-child bonding, increased breast milk, so she is getting all those benefits because of the way you're communicating"

BUT there is an additional goal that may be of higher priority in resource-limited settings...



Adapted Goals of FICare in Resource-Limited Setting

The additional goal results from healthcare worker shortages:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends 3 nurses/midwives for every 1,000 people
- In 2018, 60% of the least developed countries failed to meet the WHO standard
 - In Uganda, there are 6 nurses/midwives for every 10,000 people
- Healthcare worker shortages lead to poorer quality of hospital care

How do healthcare worker shortages influence how mothers and healthcare workers understand the goals of FICare?



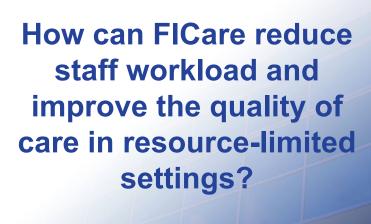
Adapted Goals of FICare in Resource-Limited Setting

- One of the dominant themes that emerged from interviews was that FICare could be used to reduce the workload of healthcare workers
 - When mothers assume some of the nursing responsibilities, healthcare workers can better prioritize care

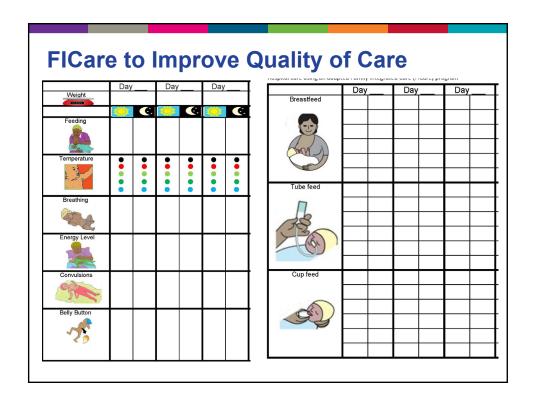
Mother

"when I learn [FICare], I will not disturb the doctors so much" Healthcare Worker

"we are working in an environment where the staffing is low. So the mothers will help us see the things we wouldn't have seen"



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FICare to Improve the Quality of Care

Mothers were audited 2-4 days after initiation of intervention:

Percentage of mothers who could correctly:

Measure their baby's weight: 87% Track their baby's feeding: 96%

Assess their baby's temperature using the sticker: 98%

Assess for difficulty breathing: 98% Assess if their baby is weak: 98% Assess for convulsions: 98%

Assess for belly button infection (omphalitis): 98%



FICare to Improve the Quality of Care

How do mothers compare to nurses in their ability to weigh their babies daily?

	FICare (Mothers)	Standard care (Nurses)	p value
Percentage of hospitalized days that baby was weighed, mean (SD)	64.2% (+/- 4.1)	33.1% (+/- 5.6)	p<0.0001



FICare in resource-limited settings sounds great! But, is that the complete story?



Potential Barriers to FICare

Who will teach the parents (and the staff)?

- ☐ We had 2 research nurses who spent 30-60 minutes per mother
- ☐ Average nurse-to-patient ratio is 10:1 and staff often rotate

Can parents learn FICare?

(Do healthcare workers believe parents can learn FICare?)

- □ In our cohort, 40% had completed only primary school & an additional 51% had completed secondary school, but this may not be true in other places
- □ Although 90% of Ugandan females age 15-24 can read, healthcare workers (and mothers) remain skeptical that mothers can learn FICare

 Mother

 *Healthcare Worker**

"you might find another mother whose brain does not pick up as fast"

"remember we are dealing with an illiterate society"



FICare in Resource-Limited Settings

- ☐ FICare may offer a revolutionary intervention to improve the quality of care in hospitals in resource-limited settings by offloading some of the work to parents
 - FICare needs to be adapted to the local needs and wants
- Mothers are more capable than we often think!
 - Building trust between healthcare workers and mothers is key
- ☐ FICare is a resource-intensive intervention at the beginning and is likely the biggest barrier to implementation in resource-limited settings.
 - Utilizing peer-to-peer education ("champions") may mitigate the startup cost and should be studied.



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