

A typical clinical experience of a trainee neonatal clinician.

A baby was delivered by a Caesarean section at CB Dunbar Hospital at 28 weeks' gestation weighing 1.25 Kg. His mother suffered prolonged eclampsia with persistent coma and died soon after he was born. He was resuscitated for 3 minutes with bag and mask assisted ventilation and later started to breath spontaneously and was taken to the neonatal unit.

He was initially placed in an incubator and on nasal CPAP to help with his breathing and keep the lungs open. He was also started on intravenous fluids and antibiotics. On the second day of life, he started responding well and was weaned off CPAP to continue with additional inspired oxygen. Due to the death of his mother, no breast milk was available and so he was started on Formula feeding. There is no breast milk bank available in Liberia, although this is planned.

His relatives were taught how to undertake skin to skin care (KMC) which they complied with. The baby's father later moved into the hospital to continue with the provision of KMC and it was amazing for other mothers in the NICU to see a man taking up this challenge. One of the volunteer MCAI doctors also participated in the KMC challenge!

The baby received care and treatment for more than a month before he was discharged home having reached a weight of 2Kg. At his last follow-up visit, he weighed 2.8kg and was doing well with relatives helping to continue his care.