

International Maternal & Child Health Care

A practical manual for hospitals worldwide



MCAI Maternal & Childhealth
Advocacy International

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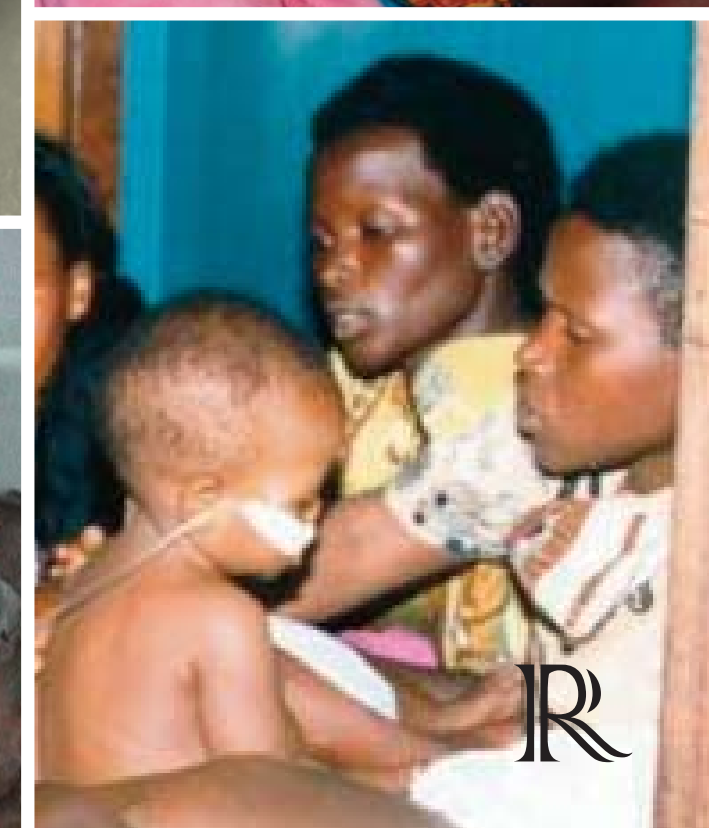
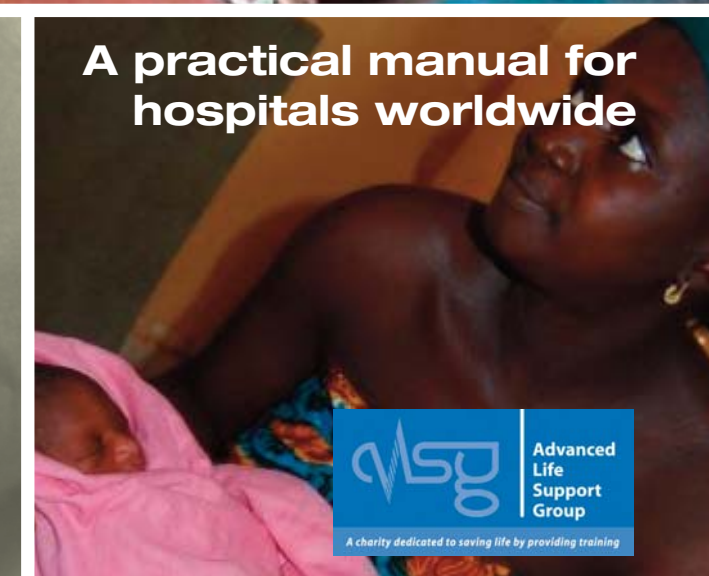
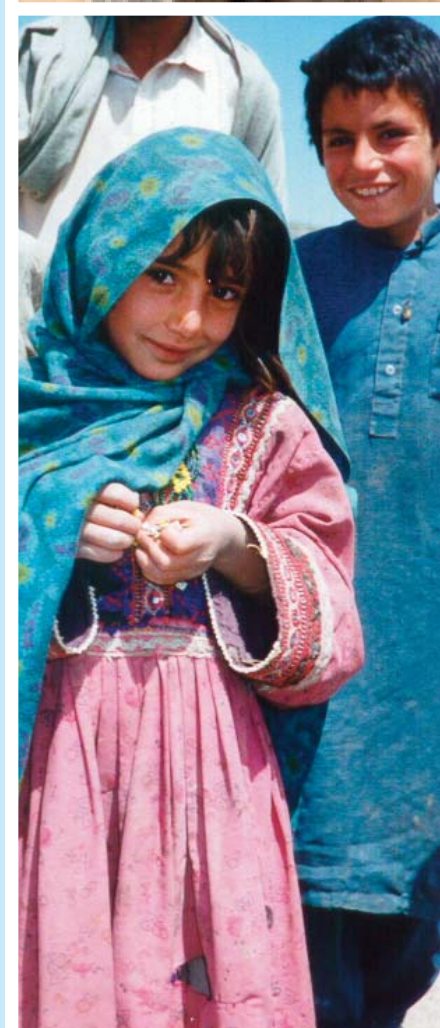
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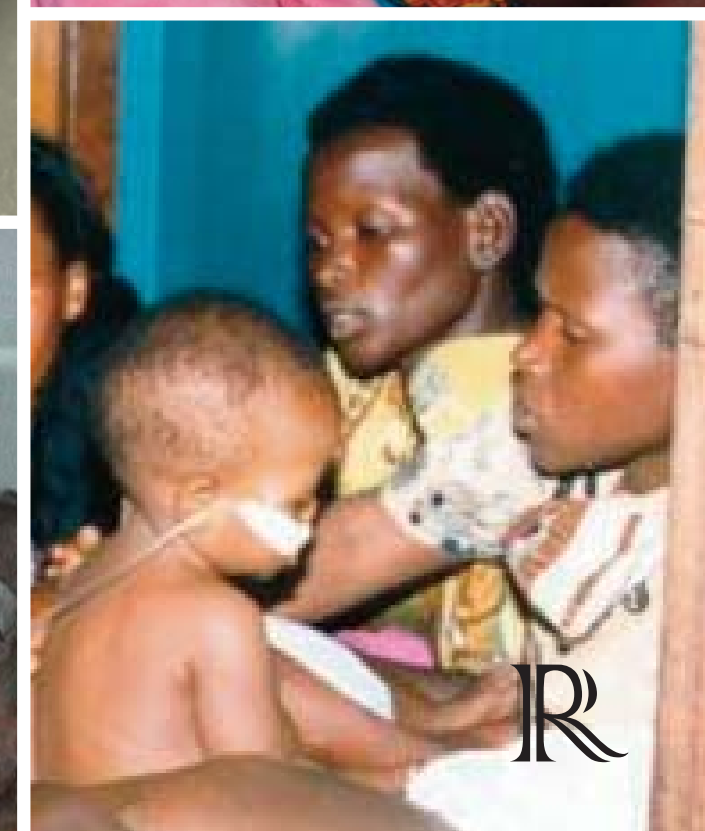
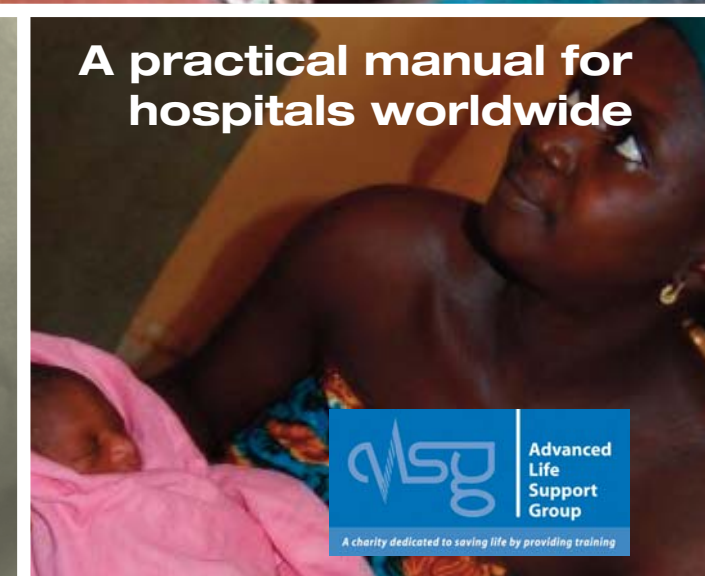
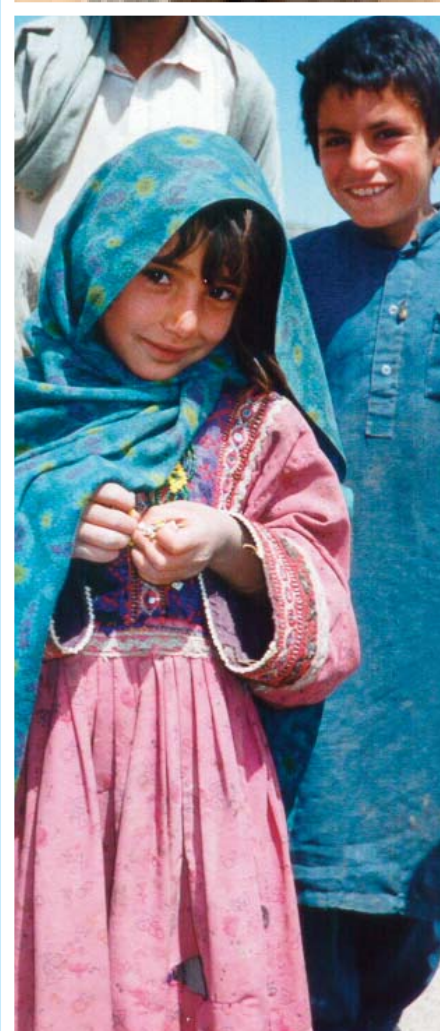
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Foreword

Professor David Southall and the expert contributors to this textbook must be commended. They have delivered a consolidated, practical guide on maternal and child health with an understanding that care should not be compromised even in the face of conflict, material shortage, or human resource limitations.

Maternal and child health has made great strides in recent decades, but requires continued work. This textbook tackles the challenge by taking a uniquely holistic perspective and will help to push forward this public health agenda. This book is enriched by in-depth clinical questions, in addition to a sympathetic and exceptional understanding of the challenges facing health systems worldwide.

The segment on respectful and compassionate care caught my attention in particular. It is a crucial aspect of quality medical service and a patient's continued engagement in

the healthcare system. This goes hand-in-hand with grief management, medical and nursing ethics, and the realisation that healthcare moves well beyond the clinical setting alone. Comfort and communication go a long way, and I applaud the authors for their promotion of complete care.

I am particularly grateful to the authors for providing this textbook free of charge in resource-limited clinical settings. I am excited to see literature that understands the importance of continued education for a strong health workforce.

It is with the help of textbooks like this that we can move towards increased access to evidence-based, comprehensive healthcare for women and children. It is my hope that this textbook will become an essential part of a holistic, systems-based approach to maternal and child healthcare.

Dr Bernice Dahn MD MPH FLCP
Deputy Minister of Health/
Chief Medical Officer-Republic of Liberia
July 2014

Preface

This textbook is written to help health workers treating pregnant women and adolescents, their newborn infants, and children admitted to hospitals in countries all over the world. It is especially aimed at those working in settings in which material and human resources are limited, where borders and infrastructures are insecure, and in rural areas where health workers may find it particularly difficult to work. Building on existing global efforts, dedicated doctors, nurses and midwives in these settings are already providing life-saving healthcare, but often find their work hard and sometimes overwhelming. Access to up-to-date evidence-based guidelines in such settings is often extremely difficult. The Internet is often too slow, printing from computers is often too expensive, and so, in our experience, books remain essential.

This textbook has been written and peer-reviewed by over 100 experts from around the world, with experience in hospital settings in which there are poor resources, who have freely given their time and expertise. Covering all aspects of hospital care for pregnant women and adolescents, newborn infants and children, this textbook addresses a full range of possible illnesses, conditions, and injuries and includes complications of pregnancy and delivery. Based on the latest evidence and guidelines available, including Cochrane reviews and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, this textbook builds on existing efforts and identifies an internationally applicable minimum standard of healthcare in poorly resourced

hospitals and reflects the management of problems often inherent in resource-limited countries. The textbook proposes minimum standards, both in the treatments given and also in the medical ethics and professional standards, which should be practised in caring for the particularly vulnerable patients attending hospitals in resource-limited settings.

MCAI is funding the costs of publishing, printing and distributing this textbook on a 'not for profit' basis. Following requests from health workers in resource-limited settings, the aim of the editors and authors is to provide this textbook free of charge (on condition that health workers agree to use and look after the textbook; see inside cover). The textbook is particularly targeted at front-line health workers in the most disadvantaged hospitals in the world, particularly those in rural areas of low-income countries, especially those treating all women and children regardless of their or their family's ability to pay. In all other countries, the textbook will be charged at above cost price with all profit from these sales going to help fund the provision of further copies of the textbook for health workers in low income countries and to the work of MCAI in strengthening the emergency healthcare systems of hospitals in the world's poorest countries.

The aim of all authors and editors is to provide a useful, comprehensive reference for all health workers in all settings to help them provide the best possible clinical care and management for pregnant women and adolescents, their newborn infants, and children.

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