Challenges Faced By Healthcare Providers in Delivering High-Quality Care to Neonates in Ghana and West Africa

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Abstract
The challenges faced by healthcare providers in delivering high-quality care to neonates in Ghana and West Africa are numerous. Limited resources, including equipment, medications, and skilled personnel, hinder the ability to provide optimal care. Additionally, cultural beliefs and practices often pose obstacles to effective healthcare delivery. Furthermore, inadequate infrastructure and transportation systems make it difficult to reach remote areas where many neonates reside. Despite these challenges, healthcare providers strive to overcome these barriers through education, training programs, and partnerships with international organizations. By addressing these challenges head-on, the goal of providing high-quality care to neonates in Ghana and West Africa can be achieved.

Keywords: Protocols and Guidelines, challenges, healthcare providers, Ghana and West Africa, Benchmarking, Quality Neonatal Care, Care to Neonates

Introduction:
In the realm of healthcare, the quality of neonatal care is of utmost importance as it directly affects the survival and well-being of newborn infants.¹-⁴ Ghana, a country located in West Africa, has made significant strides in improving its healthcare system over the years.⁵-⁶ However, it is crucial to critically assess the standards of care provided to neonates within this context and explore how these standards relate to the standard operating system.

One issue that warrants examination is the standards of care in neonatal care systems.⁷-⁹ This entails evaluating the policies, protocols, and guidelines implemented to ensure optimal care for neonates. By scrutinizing these standards, we can identify areas where improvements are needed and highlight any gaps between theory and practice.

Another aspect deserving attention is the management of neonatal admissions at hospitals.¹⁰-¹² This involves analyzing how hospitals handle incoming neonatal cases, including their triage process, staffing levels, and availability of resources such as equipment and medications.¹³-¹⁶ Understanding how hospitals
manage these admissions will shed light on potential barriers or facilitators to providing high-quality neonatal care.

Furthermore, it is imperative to explore factors impacting the quality of neonatal care in Ghana within the broader framework of its healthcare system. These factors may include socioeconomic issues, cultural beliefs and practices surrounding childbirth and infant care, access to healthcare facilities in rural areas, or even systemic challenges such as limited funding or inadequate infrastructure. By contextualizing these factors within Ghana's healthcare system and critically assessing their influence on neonatal care quality, we can uncover gaps in research and theories pertaining to this field. Identifying these gaps will pave the way for future studies aimed at addressing them head-on while striving for continuous improvement in providing optimal neonatal care across Ghana's healthcare landscape. This research paper will delve into three essential issues: standards of care in neonatal systems; management of neonatal admissions at hospitals; and factors impacting quality of neonatal care. Through a critical assessment of these aspects, we aim to shed light on the current state of neonatal care in Ghana, identify areas for improvement, and bridge gaps in research and theories surrounding this vital field.

**Standards of Care in Neonatal Care Systems:**

The standards of care in neonatal care systems play a crucial role in determining the quality of healthcare provided to neonates. In the context of Ghana, the standard operating system for neonatal care is essential in ensuring that adequate and appropriate care is delivered to these vulnerable infants. However, a critical assessment of these standards reveals certain gaps and challenges that need to be addressed. One aspect that requires careful evaluation is the management of neonatal admissions at hospitals. The efficient management of admissions is vital for ensuring prompt access to necessary medical interventions and resources. In Ghana, however, there are several factors affecting this process. Limited resources and infrastructure pose significant challenges in delivering optimal care to neonates. The shortage of skilled healthcare professionals further exacerbates this issue, as it hampers the ability to provide timely interventions and specialized treatments. Furthermore, contextualizing these factors within the Ghanaian healthcare system sheds light on additional gaps in research and theories concerning neonatal care. While there have been efforts made towards improving healthcare services, there remains a lack of comprehensive studies focusing specifically on neonatal care in West Africa. This gap hinders the development of evidence-based practices tailored to address the unique needs and challenges faced by this population. Moreover, it is important to identify other factors affecting the quality of neonatal care within Ghana's healthcare system. Socioeconomic disparities contribute significantly to disparities in access and utilization of healthcare services among different populations. Additionally, cultural beliefs and practices can influence parental attitudes towards seeking medical assistance for their neonates or adhering to recommended treatments. Assessing the standards of care in relation to the standard operating system for neonatal care highlights several areas needing improvement within Ghana's healthcare system. The management of neonatal admissions faces various challenges due to limited resources and a shortage of skilled professionals. Furthermore, gaps in research and theories pertaining specifically to neonatal care impede progress towards evidence-based practices tailored for West African settings like Ghana. Additionally, factors such as socioeconomic disparities and cultural beliefs contribute to the overall quality of care provided to neonates. Addressing these gaps and challenges is crucial for enhancing the quality of neonatal care in Ghana and ensuring improved outcomes for neonates in the country.
Management of Neonatal Admissions at Hospitals:
The management of neonatal admissions at hospitals plays a critical role in ensuring the quality of neonatal care in Ghana.60-63 The standard operating system used to handle these admissions is crucial in determining the effectiveness and efficiency of care provided to neonates.64-65 However, a critical assessment reveals several gaps in the standards of care and their relationship with the standard operating system. One key aspect to consider is the management of neonatal admissions at hospitals.66-72 In Ghana, there are significant challenges in this area that impact the quality of care provided to neonates.73-79 Firstly, there is a lack of standardized protocols and guidelines for admitting and managing neonates.80-83 This leads to inconsistencies in practice across different healthcare facilities, making it difficult to ensure that every baby receives optimal care.84-86 Furthermore, there is often a shortage of trained healthcare professionals specifically equipped to handle neonatal admissions.87-90 The limited number of skilled staff contributes to overwhelmed healthcare teams, resulting in decreased attention and resources available for each individual patient.91-93 This can lead to delayed interventions or missed opportunities for early detection and treatment.94-96 Another factor affecting the quality of neonatal care in West Africa, within the context of Ghana's healthcare system, is inadequate infrastructure and equipment.97-101 Many hospitals lack essential resources such as incubators, ventilators, or even basic supplies like clean water or electricity. Without these necessary tools, providing adequate care becomes challenging if not impossible.101 Moreover, socioeconomic factors also play a significant role in influencing the quality of neonatal care provided at hospitals.102-104 Families from low-income backgrounds often face barriers accessing healthcare services due to financial constraints or transportation issues.105-108 Consequently, they may delay seeking medical attention for their neonates until conditions worsen significantly.109-113 These factors highlight significant gaps within current research and theories on neonatal care management at hospitals in Ghana. There is a need for further investigation into effective strategies for standardizing protocols and guidelines across all healthcare facilities. Additionally, research should focus on addressing human resource shortages by implementing training programs specific to neonatal care and exploring innovative ways to optimize staff allocation.

The management of neonatal admissions at hospitals in Ghana faces significant challenges that impact the quality of care provided to neonates. The lack of standardized protocols, shortages of trained healthcare professionals, inadequate infrastructure and equipment, and socioeconomic factors all contribute to these challenges. Addressing these gaps in research and theories will be crucial in improving the quality of neonatal care in West Africa, within the context of Ghana's healthcare system.

Factors Impacting Quality of Neonatal Care:
The quality of neonatal care in Ghana is impacted by various factors that influence the standard operating system and management of neonatal admissions at hospitals. These factors play a crucial role in shaping the overall quality of care provided to neonates in West Africa, particularly within the context of the Ghanaian healthcare system. However, there are significant gaps in research and theories regarding these factors.

One factor that affects the quality of neonatal care is the availability and accessibility of resources and infrastructure. Limited resources, such as medical equipment, medications, and trained healthcare professionals, can hinder the provision of optimal care for neonates. This lack of resources often leads to inadequate monitoring and treatment options for neonates, resulting in compromised healthcare outcomes.114-118 Additionally, staffing shortages pose a significant challenge to neonatal care in Ghana.
The shortage of skilled healthcare professionals, particularly specialized neonatologists and nurses trained in newborn care, places a heavy burden on existing staff members. This can lead to increased workloads and decreased attention given to individual patients, potentially compromising the quality of care provided. Moreover, socio-economic factors have a profound impact on neonatal care standards. Poverty levels and limited access to education contribute to inadequate knowledge about maternal health practices among expectant mothers. This lack of awareness can result in delayed or inadequate prenatal care, leading to increased risks during childbirth and poorer outcomes for neonates. Furthermore, cultural beliefs and practices also influence the quality of neonatal care in Ghana. Traditional customs related to childbirth may conflict with evidence-based medical interventions recommended for improving newborn health outcomes. For example, traditional birth attendants may prefer home births over hospital deliveries despite potential risks associated with complications that may arise during childbirth.

These factors collectively contribute to gaps within research and theories surrounding neonatal care standards in Ghana's healthcare system. While studies have been conducted on specific aspects like resource availability or cultural practices impacting newborn health outcomes individually; there is a lack of comprehensive research addressing these factors holistically. Additionally, limited research focusing on the quality of neonatal care specifically within the Ghanaian context further widens these gaps. Factors impacting the quality of neonatal care in Ghana are diverse and multifaceted. The availability and accessibility of resources, staffing shortages, socio-economic factors, and cultural beliefs all play a significant role in shaping the standard operating system and management of neonatal admissions. However, there is a pressing need for more comprehensive research to bridge the gaps in understanding these factors and develop evidence-based interventions that can improve the overall quality of neonatal care in Ghana.

In summary, the quality of neonatal care in Ghana is influenced by various factors, including the standards of care in neonatal care systems, the management of neonatal admissions at hospitals, and the factors impacting the quality of neonatal care. Firstly, the standards of care in neonatal care systems play a crucial role in determining the quality of care provided to neonates. It is essential for healthcare facilities to adhere to standardized protocols and guidelines to ensure consistent and effective treatment. However, there are gaps in research and theories regarding these standards in Ghana, highlighting the need for further investigation. Secondly, the management of neonatal admissions at hospitals is another critical aspect that affects the quality of care. Efficient admission processes and appropriate allocation of resources are necessary to provide timely and adequate treatment for neonates. Identifying gaps in this area can help improve overall healthcare delivery. Lastly, several factors impact the quality of neonatal care in Ghana. These include limited resources, inadequate staffing levels, lack of specialized training for healthcare professionals, cultural beliefs and practices affecting healthcare-seeking behavior, and socioeconomic disparities. Addressing these factors is crucial for enhancing neonatal care outcomes.

**Bridging the Research Gaps**

In recent years, there has been an increased focus on improving the quality of healthcare services provided to neonates in Ghana and West Africa. This section of the research paper aims to comprehensively analyze relevant selected studies to explore evidence-based guidelines and protocols that can be tailored to the local context of Ghana and benchmark with international best practices in neonatal care.
Need for Localized Evidence-based Guidelines for Neonatal Care:
The provision of high-quality care to neonates in Ghana and West Africa is a challenge that healthcare providers face due to various specific challenges. These challenges can be identified through comprehensive analysis of relevant selected studies conducted in the region. One such challenge is the lack of localized evidence-based guidelines for neonatal care. In order to deliver optimal care to neonates, healthcare providers need access to guidelines and protocols that are tailored specifically to the local context of Ghana and West Africa. This is crucial as the healthcare landscape in these regions may differ significantly from international best practices in neonatal care.

Localized evidence-based guidelines are essential because they take into account the unique socio-cultural, economic, and infrastructural factors that impact neonatal care in Ghana and West Africa. These factors may include limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, low levels of awareness among caregivers, and cultural beliefs that influence health-seeking behaviors. By developing guidelines that are specifically designed for this context, healthcare providers can ensure that their practices align with the reality on the ground. Moreover, localized evidence-based guidelines help bridge the gap between international best practices and local implementation. While international guidelines provide valuable insights into effective neonatal care strategies, they may not always be directly applicable or feasible within the resource-constrained settings of Ghana and West Africa. Localized guidelines can address this gap by adapting international recommendations to suit local realities. Furthermore, having localized evidence-based guidelines enables standardization of care across different healthcare facilities within Ghana and West Africa. This ensures consistency in treatment approaches and improves overall quality of care provided to neonates. Standardization also facilitates collaboration among healthcare providers as they share a common framework for decision-making and problem-solving.

There is a clear need for localized evidence-based guidelines for neonatal care in Ghana and West Africa. These guidelines would address specific challenges faced by healthcare providers in delivering high-quality care to neonates within their unique context. By tailoring protocols according to local realities, healthcare providers can bridge the gap between international best practices and local implementation, ensuring optimal care for neonates in Ghana and West Africa. From the comprehensive analysis of relevant selected studies in Ghana and West Africa, the specific challenges faced by healthcare providers in delivering high-quality care to neonates were revealed. Limited resources and infrastructure for neonatal care have been identified as a major obstacle, with inadequate facilities, equipment, and trained personnel hindering the provision of optimal care. Also, cultural beliefs and practices impacting newborn healthcare have been found to play a significant role in shaping healthcare decisions and practices. These cultural factors can sometimes conflict with evidence-based guidelines and protocols, further complicating the delivery of high-quality care.

Furthermore, there is a clear need for localized evidence-based guidelines for neonatal care that take into account the unique context of Ghana and West Africa. While international best practices provide valuable guidance, they must be tailored to address the specific challenges faced by healthcare providers in this region. This includes considering cultural beliefs and practices, as well as working within limited resources and infrastructure. Addressing these challenges requires collaboration between policymakers, healthcare providers, researchers, and communities. Efforts should focus on improving access to resources and infrastructure for neonatal care while also promoting culturally sensitive approaches that respect local beliefs. Additionally, developing localized evidence-based guidelines will help ensure that healthcare providers have access to up-to-date information that is relevant to their specific context. Overall, by addressing limited resources and infrastructure for neonatal
care, cultural beliefs impacting newborn healthcare, and the need for localized evidence-based guidelines, Ghana and West Africa can work towards improving the quality of care provided to neonates.

The challenges, evidence-based guidelines and alignments with international best practices

The healthcare system in Ghana and West Africa faces numerous challenges in delivering high-quality care to neonates. These challenges are unique to the region and require tailored solutions that align with evidence-based guidelines and protocols. This subsection of the research paper aims to compare and contrast the specific challenges faced by healthcare providers in Ghana, examine the evidence-based guidelines for neonatal care in West Africa, and explore how the local context of Ghana aligns with international best practices. One of the primary challenges faced by healthcare providers in Ghana is a lack of resources. Limited funding, inadequate infrastructure, and a shortage of skilled personnel hinder the delivery of high-quality care to neonates. Further, cultural beliefs and practices can affect healthcare-seeking behaviors, further complicating the provision of adequate neonatal care. In contrast, evidence-based guidelines for neonatal care in West Africa provide a framework for improving health outcomes among neonates. These guidelines focus on essential interventions such as antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, postnatal visits, immunization programs, breastfeeding support, and early detection of illnesses. By adhering to these guidelines, healthcare providers can enhance their ability to deliver quality care despite resource constraints. When comparing the local context of Ghana with international best practices in neonatal care, several areas stand out. While there has been progress in reducing infant mortality rates through initiatives like national health insurance schemes and increased access to healthcare facilities, disparities still exist between rural and urban areas. Furthermore, integrating traditional birth attendants into formal healthcare systems has proven effective in some regions but requires careful consideration due to varying levels of training and knowledge.

Therefore, addressing the specific challenges faced by healthcare providers in delivering high-quality neonatal care is crucial for improving health outcomes among neonates in Ghana and West Africa. By tailoring evidence-based guidelines and protocols to the local context while benchmarking against international best practices, significant progress can be made towards achieving optimal neonatal health across the region.

Challenges Faced By Healthcare Providers in Ghana:

Healthcare providers in Ghana face numerous challenges in delivering high-quality care to neonates. One major challenge is the lack of adequate resources and infrastructure. Many healthcare facilities in Ghana lack essential medical equipment, such as incubators and ventilators, which are crucial for providing specialized care to sick or premature infants. Additionally, there is a shortage of trained healthcare professionals, particularly neonatologists and pediatricians, who possess the necessary expertise to manage complex neonatal conditions. This scarcity of skilled personnel further hampers the provision of quality care to neonates. Another significant challenge faced by healthcare providers in Ghana is the limited access to evidence-based guidelines and protocols tailored to the local context. While international best practices exist for neonatal care, they may not always be applicable or feasible within the constraints of Ghana's healthcare system. Thus, healthcare providers often struggle to adapt these guidelines to suit their specific circumstances and resources available. This can result in inconsistent or suboptimal care being provided to neonates. Furthermore, cultural beliefs and practices pose additional challenges for healthcare providers in Ghana. Traditional beliefs surrounding
childbirth and infant care can sometimes conflict with modern medical practices. For instance, some communities adhere strongly to traditional birthing rituals that may not align with evidence-based obstetric practices aimed at ensuring safe deliveries. Overcoming such deeply ingrained cultural norms requires effective communication and community engagement strategies.

The dearth of reliable data on neonatal health outcomes also poses a significant challenge for healthcare providers in Ghana. Without accurate information on morbidity and mortality rates among neonates, it becomes challenging to identify areas that require improvement or evaluate the effectiveness of interventions implemented. Consequently, addressing gaps in data collection systems should be a priority for improving neonatal care delivery.

Healthcare providers in Ghana face several challenges when it comes to delivering high-quality care to neonates. These challenges include inadequate resources and infrastructure, limited access to tailored evidence-based guidelines and protocols, cultural barriers that impact medical practices, and a lack of reliable data on neonatal health outcomes. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach that involves strengthening healthcare infrastructure, increasing the availability of local guidelines, promoting cultural sensitivity, and improving data collection systems. Only through concerted efforts can Ghana's healthcare system strive to meet international benchmarks and provide optimal care for neonates.

Evidence-based Guidelines for Neonatal Care in West Africa:

In West Africa, healthcare providers face numerous challenges in delivering high-quality care to neonates. Studies conducted in Ghana and other West African countries have identified specific obstacles that hinder the provision of optimal neonatal care. One such challenge is the limited availability of resources, including medical equipment and skilled healthcare professionals. This scarcity often leads to overcrowded hospitals and understaffed neonatal units, which ultimately compromise the quality of care provided to neonates. Additionally, inadequate training and knowledge among healthcare providers contribute to suboptimal practices in neonatal care. Many providers lack awareness of evidence-based guidelines and protocols for neonatal care, resulting in variations in practice that may not align with international best practices.

To address these challenges, evidence-based guidelines and protocols can be tailored to the local context of Ghana and West Africa's healthcare system. These guidelines are crucial as they provide standardized approaches to neonatal care based on rigorous scientific research. By implementing evidence-based guidelines, healthcare providers can ensure that their practices align with international best practices while accounting for local constraints. One example of an evidence-based guideline is promoting exclusive breastfeeding for neonates during their first six months of life. Research shows that exclusive breastfeeding significantly reduces the risk of infections and mortality among infants. In Ghana specifically, studies have highlighted the need for interventions aimed at improving exclusive breastfeeding rates due to cultural beliefs surrounding early introduction of complementary foods. Another important guideline is proper infection prevention measures within neonatal units. Studies have shown that implementing strict hand hygiene protocols significantly reduces infection rates among neonates. In resource-limited settings like West Africa, where access to clean water and sanitation facilities may be limited, it becomes even more crucial to prioritize infection prevention measures within neonatal units.
Furthermore, evidence-based guidelines also emphasize the importance of kangaroo mother care (KMC) for preterm infants or those with low birth weight.268 KMC involves close skin-to-skin contact between a mother or caregiver and a newborn baby, providing warmth, stability, and nutrition.269-270 Studies271-288 have consistently demonstrated the positive impact of KMC on infant survival rates, weight gain, and neurodevelopment. Evidence-based guidelines tailored to the local context of Ghana and West Africa can help address the specific challenges faced by healthcare providers in delivering high-quality neonatal care. By implementing these guidelines, healthcare providers can bridge the gap between local constraints and international best practices in neonatal care. This ultimately improves outcomes for neonates in West Africa's healthcare system.

Comparing Local Context with International Best Practices:
When comparing the local context of Ghana and West Africa with international best practices in delivering high-quality care to neonates, it becomes evident that there are specific challenges faced by healthcare providers in these regions. Numerous studies289-306 conducted in Ghana and West Africa have shed light on these challenges, highlighting the need for tailored evidence-based guidelines and protocols. One particular study307 conducted in Ghana identified a lack of essential resources, such as neonatal intensive care units and skilled healthcare professionals, as a significant challenge in delivering quality care to neonates. Similarly, another study308 conducted in West Africa highlighted the limited access to prenatal care and inadequate transportation systems as major obstacles faced by healthcare providers. These findings emphasize the urgent need for tailored guidelines and protocols that can address these specific challenges within the local context.

To meet this demand, evidence-based guidelines and protocols can be developed to accommodate the unique needs of Ghana and other countries in West Africa. For instance, research309 has shown that implementing kangaroo mother care (KMC) can significantly improve outcomes for premature infants. KMC involves skin-to-skin contact between the mother or caregiver and the newborn, promoting thermal regulation and breastfeeding initiation. By tailoring this practice to fit into the cultural norms of Ghanaian society, where extended family members often play an active role in childcare, healthcare providers can ensure its successful implementation. Furthermore, benchmarking against international best practices is crucial when developing guidelines tailored to Ghana's local context. By examining successful neonatal care models from around the world, such as those implemented in Scandinavian countries with low infant mortality rates, valuable insights can be gained. For example, ensuring continuous training for healthcare professionals on evidence-based practices has proven effective in reducing neonatal mortality rates globally. Comparing the local context of Ghana and West Africa with international best practices reveals specific challenges faced by healthcare providers when delivering high-quality care to neonates. These challenges include a lack of essential resources and limited access to prenatal care.310 However, by tailoring evidence-based guidelines and protocols to the local context and benchmarking against international best practices, healthcare providers in Ghana and West Africa can make significant strides towards improving neonatal care.311 Implementing practices such as kangaroo mother care and ensuring continuous training for healthcare professionals are just a few examples of how these regions can bridge the gap between their current healthcare systems and international standards.

In fact, healthcare providers in Ghana face several challenges in delivering high-quality care to neonates. These challenges include limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and a shortage of skilled healthcare professionals. Additionally, cultural beliefs and practices can also pose obstacles to providing optimal
neonatal care. However, despite these challenges, there are evidence-based guidelines for neonatal care in West Africa that can be tailored to the local context of Ghana. These guidelines focus on promoting breastfeeding, preventing infections, and ensuring proper nutrition for neonates. When comparing the local context with international best practices in neonatal care, it is evident that there is a need for improvement in Ghana's healthcare system. While some progress has been made in recent years, there is still a long way to go in order to meet international standards. It is crucial for healthcare providers and policymakers to collaborate and implement strategies that address the specific challenges faced by neonates in Ghana.

Overall, addressing the challenges faced by healthcare providers in delivering high-quality care to neonates requires a multi-faceted approach. This includes improving infrastructure and resources, increasing access to skilled healthcare professionals, promoting evidence-based guidelines for neonatal care, and adapting international best practices to the local context of Ghana.

Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations
Ensuring the provision of high-quality care to neonates is a critical aspect of healthcare delivery. However, healthcare providers in Ghana and West Africa face specific challenges that hinder their ability to deliver optimal care to neonates. This research paper aims to provide a summary of relevant studies conducted in the region, identify the challenges faced by healthcare providers, and propose evidence-based guidelines and protocols tailored to the local context.

Challenges Faced by Healthcare Providers:
1. Limited resources: In Ghana and many other West African countries, healthcare facilities often lack adequate resources such as medical equipment, medications, and skilled personnel. This shortage hampers the ability of healthcare providers to deliver high-quality care to neonates.
2. Inadequate training: Many healthcare providers lack specialized training in neonatal care due to limited educational opportunities or insufficient emphasis on this area during their training. As a result, they may struggle with identifying and managing common neonatal conditions effectively.
3. Cultural beliefs and practices: Traditional cultural beliefs surrounding childbirth can influence the acceptance of modern medical interventions for neonates. Some communities may rely on traditional healers or delay seeking medical help until conditions worsen, leading to adverse outcomes for neonates.

Evidence-Based Guidelines Tailored for Local Context: To address these challenges, it is crucial to develop evidence-based guidelines and protocols that are tailored specifically for the local context of Ghana and West Africa:
1. Strengthening infrastructure: Investment in healthcare infrastructure is essential for improving neonatal care services. This includes ensuring access to essential medical equipment such as incubators, ventilators, phototherapy units, as well as establishing well-equipped neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) across the region.
2. Enhancing education and training: Providing comprehensive training programs focused on neonatal care will equip healthcare providers with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality care. This can be achieved through collaborations with international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), to develop training curricula and facilitate knowledge exchange.
3. Community engagement: Engaging local communities is vital in promoting awareness of neonatal healthcare practices. Healthcare providers should collaborate with community leaders, traditional birth
attendants, and local health workers to educate families about the importance of seeking early medical intervention for neonates.

In conclusion, healthcare providers in Ghana and West Africa face numerous challenges in delivering high-quality care to neonates. However, by implementing evidence-based guidelines and protocols tailored to the local context, these challenges can be addressed effectively. Strengthening infrastructure, enhancing education and training programs, and engaging communities are essential steps towards benchmarking with international best practices in neonatal care.

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