



International Pediatric Association supports the Universal Use of Kangaroo Mother Care

The International Pediatric Association (IPA) has endorsed a joint statement on the implementation of the kangaroo mother care (KMC) method for preterm and low birthweight infants (LBW).

This International Joint Statement has been endorsed and signed by IPA, the Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN), the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), the International Council of Nurses (ICN), and the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO). This statement was also reviewed and endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). The drafting and review of this statement was supported by Save the Children and by USAID's Maternal Child Survival Program, Every Premie-SCALE, and Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve System (ASSIST).

This statement regarding kangaroo mother care for preterm and low birthweight infants comes at a time when all of us are working to reduce the mortality and morbidities associated with preterm birth (PTB) or low birthweight (LBW). Representatives of the International Pediatric Association (IPA) have had a role in constructing this statement, and the IPA leadership has pledged to support wide implementation of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC).

Benefits of KMC for PTB or LBW are well documented and should be part of every evidence-based practice in every setting. Benefits include increased survival, more successful breastfeeding and more favorable growth. Better physiologic stability is well documented. Favorable psychological status for the mothers and others are clear benefits. A recent 20 year follow-up of adults who were treated with KMC following birth showed quite favorable social and behavioral effects.¹

The IPA Executive Committee encourages its pediatric member societies and each pediatrician to incorporate the Commitment to Action found in this statement to advocacy, practice and policy.

We look forward to hearing from you via Email, Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter.



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¹ Charpak et al: Twenty Year Follow-up of Kangaroo Mother Care Versus Traditional Care. *Pediatr.* 2017(1) : e201662063