**Eligibility/Admission Criteria to KMC**

# Eligibility Criteria for the Mother

1. Willingness of the mother; the mother must be willing to provide KMC. Healthcare providers should counsel and motivate her. Once the mother realizes the benefits of KMC for her baby, she will learn and undertake KMC.
2. General health and nutrition: The mother should be free from serious illness to be able to provide KMC. She should receive adequate diet and supplements recommended by her physician.
3. Hygiene: The mother should maintain good hygiene: daily bath/sponge, change of clothes, hand washing, short and clean finger nails.
4. Supportive family: Apart from supporting the mother, family members should also be encouraged to provide KMC when mother wishes to take rest. Mother would need family's cooperation to deal with her conventional responsibilities of household chores till the baby requires KMC.
5. Supportive community: Community awareness about the benefits should be created. This is particularly important when there are social, economic or family constraints

# B. Eligibility Criteria for the Baby

# Birth weight less than 2000gm

# Preterm baby

# Ability to breast feed through sucking, Cup or NG tube

# The baby should be in a stable condition:

* + - * + No major illness present such as sepsis, pneumonia, meningitis, respiratory distress and convulsions.
        + Babies who have been started on antibiotics for suspected infection can start KMC as soon as they are stable.
        + Intermittent KMC can be used until the baby is fully stable.

# Babies under phototherapy may be evaluated to receive intermittent KMC.

***Key notes:*** *The KMC room should be in close proximity to the Neonatal unit and under the supervision of the neonatal staff, with 24 hour nursing coverage. The room should be comfortable, homely and warm but not heated. There should be no cribs.*

**KMC Discharge Criteria from the Hospital**

The time of discharge may vary depending on the weight of the baby, bed availability, home conditions and accessibility of follow-up care. Usually, a KMC baby can be discharged from the hospital when the following criteria are met:

* The baby’s general health is good and there is no concurrent disease
* The kangaroo position is well tolerated by the baby and mother.
* Baby feeds well (with coordinated sucking and swallowing) and is exclusively or nearly exclusively breastfeed
* Sustained weight gain of at least 15-20gm/kg/day for three consecutive days after birth weight regained.
* Stable body temperature (within the normal range for at least three consecutive days)
* The mother and/or family members is confident in caring for the baby
* Able to come regularly for follow-up visits or Possibility of Post-discharge follow up at home