

Table S1: Evidence for the element of all mothers

All Mothers Skin-to-skin contact at birth is appropriate for all mothers throughout the world		Sign Grade A
Reference	Evidence for	Country
1	All mothers	Nepal
2	Mothers who have Gestational Diabetes Mellitus	Denmark
3	All mothers	India
4	All mothers	New Zealand
5	Women admitted for risk of preterm labor	Norway and Sweden
6	All mothers	Multiple
7	All mothers	China
8	Mothers over 18 years old	Brazil
9	All pregnant women	Ghana, India, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania

Table S2: Evidence for the element of all babies

All Babies Skin-to-skin contact at birth is appropriate for all babies throughout the world		Sign Grade A
Reference	Evidence for	Country
10	1200 – 2199 g at birth	South Africa
11	1500g – 2500 g at birth	Vietnam
12	Healthy term infants	Multiple
13	Singleton and twins 32+0 to 34+6 weeks gestation	Norway
5	28+0 to 32+6 weeks gestation	Sweden and Norway
14	25-32 weeks of gestation	Germany
15	Healthy term infants	Multiple
16	32-35 weeks gestation	Sweden
7	All babies	China
17	Full-term infants, between 2500g and 4000g	China
9	≥ 1000 g at birth	Ghana, India, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania
18	Critical congenital heart disease	USA

Table S3: Evidence for the element of immediate contact after birth

Immediate After birth, the baby should be placed directly onto the mother's bare chest/abdomen, before the cord is clamped		Sign Grade A
Reference	Evidence for	Country
19	Immediate SSC	Iran
20	Immediate SSC	Columbia
21	Immediate SSC	Multiple
22	Immediate SSC	Multiple
23	Immediate SSC	Japan
24	Immediate SSC	USA
16	Immediate SSC	Sweden
25	Immediate SSC	India
7	Immediate SSC	China
26	Immediate SSC	Iraq
27	Immediate SSC	India
28	Immediate SSC	Sweden
17	Immediate SSC	China

Table S4: Evidence for the element of skin-to-skin contact

Skin-to-Skin Contact The naked newborn baby should be placed prone on the mother's naked chest/abdomen		Sign Grade A
Reference	Evidence for	Country
19	Naked infant against their mothers' skin in prone position. Infants' heads were covered with dry caps and warm blankets were placed on their backs.	Iran
29	Naked infant in the prone position, wearing a diaper and cap, on the mother's naked thorax with both covered by a warm blanket	Columbia
30	Infant was quickly dried, placed in SSC with the semi-reclined mother and was covered with a warm blanket.	USA
22	Naked infant in the prone of mother's bare chest	Multiple
5	Naked preterm infant was placed on the mother's chest, dried and covered with warm textiles	Norway and Sweden
26	Naked infant in a prone position	Iraq

	against the mother's bare chest and covered by a blanket.	
31	Naked infant prone on the mother's bare chest	India
28	Infant placed transverse, with the head to the right, in skin-to-skin contact on the mother's chest with the nipple accessible.	Sweden

Table S5: Evidence for the element of all modes of birth

All Births		Sign Grade
Skin-to-skin contact is appropriate after all modes of birth		A
Reference	Evidence for	Country
29	Vaginal	Columbia
22	Vaginal and cesarean	Multiple
5	Vaginal and cesarean	Norway and Sweden
7	All	China
9	Vaginal and cesarean	Ghana, India, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania

Table S6: Evidence for the element of uninterrupted care

Uninterrupted		Sign Grade
The baby and mother should be allowed a peaceful time during skin-to-skin, being observed however undisturbed by the family or the staff		B
Reference	Evidence for	Country
19	Routine care postponed	Iran
32	Algorithm HCP-S2S-IA: Used to determine if SSC is interrupted, including staff interfering with the newborns innate behaviors including "helping" the newborn to latch	Australia, Japan
33	Algorithm HCP-S2S-IA: Used to determine if SSC is interrupted by staff or family	USA
34	The infant was not removed for routine assessment and care	USA
35	Midwives: Were asked to not interfere with the newborn's innate behaviors, to not "help" the newborn reach the areola, and to limit ambient noise Mothers: Were asked to allow their infant to follow their innate behaviors, and were encouraged to	Italy

	stroke and talk to their infant	
21	Women want uninterrupted SSC	Multiple countries
36	Measurements and interventions were delayed up to 90 minutes	USA
37	Routine care postponed until after 2 hours	Spain
16	Transferred to NICU together in SSC	Sweden
25	Baby only removed from SSC if sick	India
38	Most were interrupted for neonatal care	France

Table S7: Evidence for the element of postponed routine care

<i>Postpone routine care</i>		<i>Sign Grade</i> A
Postpone newborn routine care such as weighing, eye care and screenings. Care that can be done while on the mother's body, such as assessment of vital signs and Apgarss can be conducted.		
Reference	Evidence for	Country
19	Routine care postponed	Iran
29	Performed thermoregulation and umbilical cord clamping during skin-to-skin contact. Postponed newborn evaluations, screenings, and vitamin K administration	Columbia
34	The staff did routine assessment and care procedures during skin-to-skin care	USA
36	Delayed procedures if they disrupted the mother infant dyad, including measurements	USA
37	Routine care postponed	Spain

Table S8: Evidence for the element of continuous care

Continuous The naked baby is not removed from the mother's chest/abdomen, including for routine care or transfer to a different bed, room, or ward		Sign Grade A
Reference	Evidence for	Country
19	Mothers were helped to keep their baby in SSC for at least 2 h. Routine hospital cares were postponed.	Iran
32	Algorithm HCP-S2S-IA: Used to determine if SSC is continuous during the first hour, if the infant was removed from the mother's chest	Australia, Japan
33	Baby would remain in SSC with the mother for at least the first hour after birth	USA
39	Immediate and continuous SSC after cesarean birth	USA
40	SSC through surgery for at least 2 hours after birth	Italy
41	No separation for any reason	China and Solomon Islands
13	The family could stay together in the birth room for up to 2 hours after birth before transfer to the NICU to facilitate SSC	Norway
37	Routine care postponed until after 2 hours	Spain
16	Transferred to NICU in SSC	Sweden
25	Only removed from SSC if baby becomes sick	India
42	Continuous SSC during the first hour	Sweden
26	SSC continued for 1 h. Dressing and measuring of the infant was postponed	Iraq
43	SSC continued for at least 2 hours	India

Table S9: Evidence for the element of safe care

Safe Skin-to-skin contact is safe and improves outcomes for mother and baby		Sign Grade A
Reference	Evidence for	Country
44	Infants: Decreasing SUID prevalence in the first 6 days after birth	USA
10	Preterm infants: Improved physiological outcomes and stability	South Africa
11	Low-Birth Weight Infants: Improved transition to extra-uterine life	Vietnam
45	Mothers: Improved uterine contraction and complete placenta. Decreased uterine atony and excessive blood loss	Egypt
22	Mothers: Decreased duration of third stage of labor and some evidence to accelerate the third stage of labor and preventing postpartum hemorrhage	Multiple
5	Preterm infants: Improved cardiorespiratory stabilization	Norway and Sweden
46	Preterm infants: skin-to-skin contact protects against hypothermia	Norway and Sweden
15	Infants: Improve blood glucose levels Mothers: Improved breastfeeding rates at 1-4 months.	Multiple
37	Infants: Improved thermal regulation	Spain
47	Infants: Decreased NICU admissions	USA
9	Low-Birth Weight Infants: Decreased mortality at 28 days	Ghana, India, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania

Table S10: Evidence for the element of instinctive behavior

Instinctive Behavior Baby should be given the opportunity to progress through their instinctive behavioral stages: the birth cry, relaxation, awakening, activity, rest, crawling, familiarization, breastfeeding and sleeping.		Sign Grade B
Reference	Evidence for	Country
48	Widström's 9 Stages	Iran
32	Widström's 9 Stages	Australia, Japan
30	Widström's 9 Stages	USA
49	Widström's 9 Stages	Italy, Sweden, USA, Japan
33	Widström's 9 Stages	USA
34	Widström's 9 Stages	USA
35	Widström's 9 Stages	Italy
50	Widström's 9 Stages	Uganda
51	Widström's 9 Stages	Uganda
52	Breast crawl	India
17	cues of readiness to suck, such as rooting, drooling, tonguing, and biting hands	China
53	Widström's 9 Stages	Sweden

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