

Saving Newborns and Their Mothers

PENCE Program

Perinatal Centre of Excellence: Brasov, Romania

Project HOPE's Perinatal Center of Excellence program is designed to significantly reduce the preventable deaths and disabilities of newborn babies and their mothers by training professional staff, providing management support, developing infrastructure and delivering medical equipment to build the capacity of a network of hospitals and health facilities in the Brasov region to improve their outcomes.

Brasov Region Facts

Every year:

4,830 children are
born

18,106 children are
admitted in
hospitals

40 children are
stillborn

55 children contract
hospital borne
infections

820 children suffer
permanent
disabilities
caused by
prematurity or
other perinatal
reasons

27 lives could have
been saved by
proper
transportation

8 more could have
been saved by
better
infection control

Every pregnancy is a risk, every childbirth is a risk. Even if the conditions are ideal, things could go wrong.

In Romania, conditions are far from being ideal for a childbirth. The country is preparing to join the EU, but the risk for a baby to die during the pregnancy or delivery or to become disabled for the rest of his/her life due to poor perinatal care is 3-4 times higher than in another country in Western Europe. If this baby is in a remote village or is to be born in a poor family, this risk could become several times higher.

Recently, for example, a healthy newborn died after a normal pregnancy and delivery in one of the hospitals in the Brasov region because of a hospital borne infection. The subsequent investigation found another 12 babies carrying the same bacteria in its neonatal ward. In other words, they were carrying the same risk!

This could have easily been prevented if:

the cleaning staff followed rules,
the nurse and the doctor washed their hands properly,
the lab had the tests available, performed the investigations in a timely manner, and provided the antibiogram to the doctor on time, and
the doctor had chosen the right antibacterial treatment based on the lab result promptly.

If these simple conditions were met, this baby would be alive and healthy.

This is where we can make a huge difference, together, and it doesn't even cost millions of dollars. It just takes the adoption of good practices, including training of the medical and support staff to follow basic guidelines; educating the managers to set standards and processes right and monitor them; buying a few pieces of much needed equipment for the lab and educating the lab team to be able to deliver their results quickly and efficiently.

Together We Can Help!



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