Glossary

Level-I Care (Primary level care)

Basic newborn care provided at birth, including thermal protection, breastfeeding support, infection prevention, and basic resuscitation.

Level-II Care (Secondary level care)

Specialized care for sick newborns, such as intravenous fluids, oxygen therapy, phototherapy, and management of moderate complications; provided at NBSUs and SNCUs.

Level-III Care (Tertiary level care)

Advanced intensive care for critically ill newborns, including mechanical ventilation and advanced monitoring; provided at NICUs.

PM-JAY

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana: A government health insurance scheme for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

JSY

Janani Suraksha Yojana: A safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission (NHM) to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional deliveries.

PMSMA

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan: A government initiative to provide fixed-day quality antenatal care services to pregnant women.

NICU

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: A specialized hospital unit for critically ill newborns requiring intensive medical attention and life-support systems

NBCC

A space within the labour room or operating theatre that provides immediate essential newborn care at birth, including resuscitation, warmth, breastfeeding support, and infection prevention. It is the first point of care for all newborns immediately after delivery.

NBSU

A unit established at Community Health Centres (CHCs) and First Referral Units (FRUs) designed to stabilize sick and small newborns who need specialized care before referral to higher centres (like SNCUs), or to manage conditions that can be handled locally. It has equipment like radiant warmers, oxygen concentrators, and phototherapy units.

SNCU

A specialized unit set up at District Hospitals and Medical Colleges to provide level II care to sick newborns, including management of preterm babies, low birth weight babies, and those suffering from birth asphyxia, sepsis, jaundice, etc. SNCUs are equipped for continuous monitoring and specialized interventions and typically have 12–20 beds.

Inborn Unit

A section within newborn care units (e.g., SNCU/NICU) where babies born in the same hospital are admitted.

Outborn Unit

A section where newborns referred from other facilities or born outside the hospital are admitted.

Stepdown Unit

An intermediate care area for newborns who no longer need intensive care but still require monitoring before discharge.

Empanelled Hospitals

Health facilities officially enrolled under government schemes (under PM-JAY) to provide designated healthcare services.

Catchment Area

An Area from which a Health Facility Draws its Patients or Population for Services

LAMA

Leave Against Medical Advice: A situation where a patient chooses to leave the hospital before the treating doctor advises discharge.

NRC

A facility-based unit where children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications are provided medical and nutritional care, along with counselling for caregivers to promote appropriate feeding and childcare practices.

MNCU Level I KMC Ward/ KMC Lounge

A KMC lounge is a facility-based unit established within or adjacent to postnatal wards in healthcare facilities (typically at district and sub-district hospitals) to provide integrated, continuous postnatal care for low birth weight (LBW) and normal newborns along with their mothers in a co-located setting.

BEmONC

Basic Emergency obstetric and newborn care (BEmONC) is defined as a set of life-saving interventions, that treat the major obstetric and newborn causes of morbidity and mortality.

CEmONC

CEmONC facilities are health facilities equipped and staffed to provide comprehensive emergency care to manage obstetric complications and newborn emergencies, including surgical interventions (like cesarean sections), blood transfusions, and advanced newborn care.

Health System Building Blocks

A system is an arrangement of parts and their interconnections that come together for a purpose. A health system consists of all organizations, people and actions whose primary intent is to promote, restore or maintain health. Like any other system, it is a set of interconnected parts that have to function together to be effective.