

## 5. Applicability issues

A number of factors may hinder the effective implementation and scale-up of the recommendations in this guideline. These barriers may be related to the behaviours of families or health workers and to the organization of care or health service delivery. As part of efforts to implement these recommendations, health system stakeholders may wish to consider the following potential barriers:

- difficult access to health services and health workers for families and newborns, including lack of transport, geographical conditions and financial barriers;
- lack of human resources with the necessary expertise and skills to implement, supervise and support recommended practices, including client counselling;
- lack of infrastructure to support interventions (e.g. lack of electricity for refrigeration, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, lack of access to digital interventions and devices, lack of physical space to conduct individual care and counselling);
- lack of time or understanding of the value of newly recommended interventions among health workers and health system administrators;
- lack of physical resources (such as equipment, supplies, medicines and nutritional supplements);
- lack of opportunities for continuing education and professional development for health workers;
- resistance of health workers to change from non-evidence-based to evidence-based practices (such as providing home visits or ensuring family involvement);
- lack of effective referral mechanisms and care pathways for families and newborns identified as needing additional care (e.g. continuous positive airway pressure or methylxanthines);
- lack of health management information systems designed to document and monitor recommended practices (e.g. patient records and registers).

Given these potential barriers, a phased approach to the adoption, adaptation and implementation of the recommendations in this guideline may be helpful. Various strategies for addressing these barriers and facilitating implementation are provided in each chapter.