**Risk factors for the development of neonatal sepsis in a neonatal intensive care unit of a tertiary care hospital of Nepal**

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**Additional file 1 Clinical features, risk factors and screening algorithm for sepsis (based on NICU protocol of Patan hospital)**

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| Clinical features of sepsis | |
| Hypothermia (<35.5˚C) or,  Hyperthermia(>37.7˚C) | Reduced digital capillary refill time |
| Respiratory rate >60 breaths/min | Movement only when stimulated |
| Difficulty in feeding or no feeding | Bulging fontanelle |
| Cyanosis | Mottled skin |
| Grunting | Lethargic |
| Severe chest in-drawing |  |
| Risk Factors for sepsis | |
| Maternal risk factors | **Fetal risk factors** |
| Pre-mature rupture of membrane (>18 hours) | Low birth weight (<2.5 K.G) |
| Fever during late pregnancy | Preterm (<37 weeks of gestation) |
| Urinary tract infection during late pregnancy | Requiring instrumental delivery |
| Sepsis during late pregnancy | Requiring perinatal suctioning |
| Multiple per vaginal examination (>3 times) | Requiring perinatal resuscitation |
| Chorioamnionitis |  |
| Foul smelling vaginal discharge |  |
| Sepsis screen algorithm | |
| Blood | **Abnormal value** |
| Total leukocyte count (TLC) | <7,000 /mm3 |
| Absolute neutrophil count (ANC) | Low counts as per Manroe chart(37) |
| Immature/total neutrophil | >0.2 |
| C-reactive protein (CRP) | >6 mg/dl |
| Urine routine microscopy (catheter sample)  *Suggestive of urinary tract infection* | |
| WBC count (in centrifuged sample) | >5 cells/ high-power field |