

Sample Qualitative Research Objectives for Early Postpartum Care

Overall Consultative Research Objective:

To identify factors that contribute to patterns of early postpartum care seeking behavior among recently delivered women; and to test the concept of introducing early postpartum home visitors

Specific Research Objectives:

1. To document the content and practice of routine maternal and newborn early postpartum (EPP) caregiving at household level.
2. To document the current level of family/household/community caregiver awareness of maternal and newborn EPP danger signs; and the specific dynamics of family EPP careseeking decision-making when complications and emergencies occur, with special focus on “triggers to action.
3. To identify family/household/individual barriers and potential motivators to improved utilization of EPP care.
4. To document factors that influence TBAs and other community caregivers decision to seek EPP care outside the home, and factors in family acceptance of TBA or other referral for additional EPP care.
5. To determine the acceptability and feasibility of the concept of EPP home visits, and of informed early postpartum care visitors or “EPP linkworkers” among families/households, TBAs and community maternal care providers, and maternal care providers at facility level.
6. To determine the preferred EPP care provider or linkworker, the preferred EPP care source or linkworker location, and the content of EPP care/counseling among families/households, TBAs and community maternal care providers, and maternal care providers at facility level.
7. To document the nature and extent of the social networks of WRAs; social networks of TBAs; social networks of husbands/community leaders and influentials; and social networks of skilled care providers; and how these social networks might be best used to rapidly spread information about improved early postpartum care practices among their peers and the community- at- large.