**APT-SEPSIS CHAMPION SELECTION GUIDE**

**Introduction:**

A key component of the APT-Sepsis programme is the role of a Champion.

**What is a champion?**

Champions promote and inspire others to take a more active role in healthcare. They will provide sources of information on maternal sepsis, signpost staff to materials, and support and train staff to make positive behavioural changes.

Individuals invited to become an APT- Sepsis Champions will ideally be someone who is passionate and enthusiastic about infection prevention and control and is willing to engage regularly with facility staff and organise activities to support the implementation of APT-Sepsis. Champions will act as a role model influencing colleagues’ practice.

Following randomisation each site allocated to the APT-Sepsis bundle, the senior management team will be asked to select 6 to 12 individuals to become APT-Sepsis Champions. The total number of Champions will depend on the size of the health facility. Individuals will be selected from a range of departments and professions currently working in areas where the care and support of pregnant or recently pregnant women is conducted; for example: Antenatal care areas, Maternity ward, Postnatal ward, Gynaecology ward, Operating theatre, Laboratory and Pharmacy, to allow a greater coverage of APT-Sepsis Champions throughout the clinical working day (due to shift patterns and annual/sick leave).

A multi-disciplinary team

A multi-disciplinary team will ensure representation of the entire workforce and ease communication among staff.   Champions maybe selected from any cadre suggestions are:

* Cleaner/ Housekeeper
* Patient attendant
* Midwife / Enrolled Midwife
* Clinician/ Doctors / Medical Officer
* Laboratory staff/ Laboratory technician
* Pharmacist /Pharmacy assistants
* Anaesthetist / theatre staff

Training

During the three-month transition period the staff selected and who agree to become a Champion will attend a training event. This will be held locally and Champions will be provided with the necessary training and materials to support their role. After which they will champion the implementation of Infection Prevention and Control through the APT-Sepsis Programme at their healthcare facility and be responsible for: training staff, communicating with the APT-Sepsis Research HUB team and networking with other healthcare facilities.

**APT-Sepsis Champion Selection**:

Anyone with an interest in infection prevention and control, Champions need:

* An ability to work collaboratively
* To communicate in an effective and sensitive manner to support staff
* Influencing and leadership skills
* To be a good teacher or mentor
* To be passionate and enthusiastic about improving the care of women at their hospital
* A team-player with a strong sense of community
* Understand the importance of hand hygiene and infection prevention

**INFORMATION TO BE GIVEN TO POTENTIAL CHAMPIONS**

**What is an APT-Sepsis Champion?**

Champions promote and inspire others to take a more active role in healthcare. They provide sources of information on maternal sepsis, signpost staff to materials and support and train staff to make positive behavioural changes. An APT-Sepsis Champion is a supporter and leader for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in your facility there will be 6-12 Champions selected and you will work together with the assistance from the APT-Sepsis Research HUB team to provide support, knowledge and guidance to colleagues and demonstrate best practices in IPC.

Champions will have several roles throughout the delivery and monitoring of the APT-Sepsis Programme. These include the following and will be discussed in detail during the training.

Championship

This refers to advocating for the practice and guidelines taught in the APT-Sepsis Programme including (but not limited to) the delivery of best clinical practice in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC). You will also demonstrate consistent and appropriate hand hygiene techniques and other IPC measures in your everyday practice.

Coaching

It is important that Champions understand how to objectively assess others in carrying out safe IPC practice and to coach their colleagues, helping them to achieve their full potential through an individualised approachable and non-judgemental way.

Communication and coordination

Champions are responsible for supporting and maintaining a strong communication link between the APT-Sepsis Research HUB Team and the healthcare staff members at their site.

Community

APT-Sepsis Champions are vital to building a community at two important levels.  The first level is intra-site community and the second level is inter-site community. These will be achieved through coaching sessions, local feedback, Champion network WhatsApp group, central training and Champion Network newsletters.

**APT-Sepsis Champion Training**:

Once individuals have been identified by the senior facility management team and agree to be an APT-Sepsis Champion, they will be invited to attend an APT-Sepsis Champion Training event in a centralised location.

The training event will include:

* District Health Officers, Director for health and social services in the district
* District Medical Officers
* Assistant District Health Officer – Maternal Child Health
* District Nursing Officers
* Health promotion officers
* Locally selected APT-Sepsis Champions

There are three main purposes to the APT-Sepsis raining Event. These are:

1. To impart knowledge of the APT-Sepsis Programme.
2. To meet other APT-Sepsis Champions that have been selected and build a network of support
3. To allow senior managers, and APT-Sepsis Champions at each site to form a community, allowing them to share ideas and experiences with other sites throughout the duration of the APT-Sepsis Programme, and beyond.