After birth, all mothers and newborns need to stay in the facility for at least 24 hours to receive necessary health checks, counseling, and care before discharge.

**Before Discharge, Every Mother and Newborn Needs Counseling and Care**

Make sure the following criteria have been met before they leave the facility.

**For all mothers and newborns:**

- It has been more than 24 hours since an uncomplicated vaginal birth.
- The mother has been counseled on exclusive breastfeeding, hygiene, newborn care, maternal nutrition, postpartum depression, protection from mosquitoes, follow-up care for the mother for any medical conditions (e.g., high blood pressure), resuming sexual relations, and ensuring safe sex.
- The mother and family have been counseled on and can recognize danger signs for the mother and baby and know where to seek help.
- The mother has been counseled on postpartum family planning (including the benefits of spacing births at least 3 years apart), has been offered a contraceptive method of choice (as available), and has been referred for family planning follow-up.
- The baby has received eye care, cord care, vitamin K, and immunizations per national guidelines, and has been linked to the immunization register.
- If the mother is living with HIV, she and the newborn have received ARVs. If the mother has had a positive serologic test for syphilis, she and her newborn are completing treatment per protocol; if the baby has signs of congenital syphilis, the family has been referred for specialty care.
- Follow-up has been scheduled for postnatal care (at 48–72 hours, at 7–14 days, and at 6 weeks), immunization, and family planning.

**A mother with any of the following should stay in the facility for more care:**

- Any danger sign: heavy bleeding, severe abdominal pain, unexplained pain in the chest or legs, disorientation, visual disturbance, severe headache, breathing difficulty, fever, chills, or vomiting
- Bleeding that is heavy or has increased since birth (e.g., bleeding soaks a pad in less than 5 minutes)
- Any abnormal vital sign: high blood pressure (SBP > 140 mmHg or DBP > 90 mmHg), low systolic blood pressure < 100 mmHg, temperature < 36.0°C or > 38.0°C, or heart rate > 90 beats per minute
- Inability to urinate easily or leaking urine
- Treatment for a complication and a condition that has not stabilized (e.g., vital signs are not normal or she has a danger sign)

**A newborn with any of the following should stay in the facility for more care:**

- Feeding poorly or refusing to eat
- Convulsions
- Fast breathing (> 60 breaths/minute)
- Severe chest in-drawing
- Fever (temperature > 37.5°C axillary)
- Hypothermia (temperature < 36.5°C)
- No movement or movement only on stimulation
- Any yellowing (jaundice) of the skin or mucous membranes (eyes, mouth)
- Umbilical stump that is bleeding or has discharge, foul odor, or redness around it
- Has not passed urine and/or stool, or
- Weight of < 2,500 g