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Received: 6 February 2019 | Revised: 23 June 2019 | Accepted: 20 September 2019  
DOI: 10.1002/ijgo.32978

CLINICAL ARTICLE  
Obstetrics

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## Association between person-centered maternity care and newborn complications in Kenya

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Peer Review Information  
Blind Methods Data Foundation

### Abstract

**Objective:** Despite the recognized importance of person-centered care, very little information exists on how person-centered maternity care (PCMC) impacts newborn health. **Methods:** Baseline and follow-up data were collected from women who delivered in government health facilities in Nairobi and Kiambu counties in Kenya between August 2016 and February 2017. The final analytic sample included 413 respondents who completed the baseline survey and at least one follow-up survey at 2, 6, 8, and/or 10 weeks. Data were analyzed using descriptive, bivariate, and multivariate statistics. Logistic regression was used to assess the relationship between PCMC scores and outcomes of interest.

**Results:** In multivariate analyses, women with high PCMC scores were significantly less likely to report newborn complications than women with low PCMC scores (adjusted odds ratio [aOR] 0.39, 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.16–0.98). Women reporting high PCMC scores also had significantly higher odds of reporting a willingness to return to the facility for their next delivery than women with low PCMC scores (aOR 12.72, 95% CI 2.24–71.63). The domains of Respect/Dignity and Supportive Care were associated with fewer newborn complications and willingness to return to a facility. **Conclusions:** PCMC could improve not just the experience of the mother during childbirth, but also the health of her newborn and future health-seeking behavior.

**KEYWORDS:** Health-seeking behavior; Kenya; Neonatal health; Person-centered maternity care; Quality of care

### 1 | INTRODUCTION

Despite major gains in the past decade, maternal and newborn deaths remain unacceptably high. Every year, 303 000 women die of pregnancy and childbirth-related complications, while 2.6 million newborns die in the first month of life worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Poor quality of care is a major factor in maternal and newborn health, with both short- and long-term effects on women and families.<sup>2,3</sup>

Recent evidence of poor treatment of women during childbirth has increased attention to aspects of quality beyond clinical essential services. This has led to calls for greater focus on person-centered reproductive health care: care that is respectful of and responsive to women's and families' preferences, needs, and values.<sup>4</sup> Despite the recognized importance of person-centered care, little research exists on how person-centered maternity care (PCMC) impacts newborn health, such as neonatal complications and immunizations.

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Int J Obstet Gynecol. 2019; 3–8.

wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/ijgo

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**Conclusion:** PCMC could improve not just the experience of the mother during childbirth, but also the health of her newborn and future health-seeking behavior.

September 20, 2019