

**Follow-up of newborns from Neonatal Unit in Primary Health Care of a Southern Brazilian City: Interface with the third stage of the Kangaroo Mother Care**

**Method**

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**INTRODUCTION:** Fifteen million preterm babies are born worldwide every year. Prematurity is a public health problem in which Brazil occupies the 10th position<sup>1-2</sup>. **OBJECTIVE:** To characterize the follow-up of preterm babies with low and/or very low birth weight at Neonatal Primary Care Unit and its interface with the third stage of the Kangaroo Mother Care Method. **METHODS:** This study is a qualitative, exploratory and descriptive research. Data collection occurred between September and October 2014. Thirty-one health professionals from a Primary Care Unit of a Southern Brazilian city were interviewed. The categorical Content Analysis of Bardin was used<sup>3</sup>. **RESULTS:** The follow-up of babies in Primary Care is centered on the biomedical model, requiring encouragement of actions to promote health quality. In this scenario, caring of preterm and/or low birth weight babies is surrounded by insecurity. The referral and counter-referral process between the Hospital and Primary Care Unit are still fragile, without the proper record of conducts and referrals made during infants care and underutilization of the Child Health Handbook. **CONCLUSION:** It is necessary to guarantee an adequate referral/counter-referral flow, allowing the broad supervision between Hospital and Primary Care and the strengthening of the Kangaroo Method. Thus, this research provides support to public policy and health managers, aiming to improve neonatal care.

**Keywords:** Childcare. Primary Health Care. Kangaroo Mother Care Method. Infant, Premature. Health Services.

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<sup>1</sup> MARCH OF DIMES et al. **Born too soon: the global action report on preterm birth.** Edited by Howson CP, Kinney M, Lawn JE. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Conde-Agudelo A, Díaz-Rossello JL. Kangaroo mother care to reduce morbidity and mortality in low birth weight infants. *Cochrane Database Syst. Rev.* [Internet]. 2016 [citado em: 10 jan 2018]; (8):CD002771.  
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<sup>3</sup> BARDIN, L. **Análise de conteúdo.** Lisboa: Edições 70, 2011.

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