Helping Mothers and Babies Survive

**Threatened Preterm Birth (PTB) Care**

**ACTION PLAN**

1. **Assess woman’s condition and start care**
   - **Stable**: Continue care.
   - **Not stable**: Stabilize; consider delivery.

2. **Estimate gestational age**
   - **< 37 weeks**: Consider delivery.
   - **≥ 37 weeks**: Monitor mother and fetus; continue maternal care.

3. **Condition with high risk of PTB in next 7 days**
   - Preterm labor (PTL)
   - Preterm pre-labor rupture of membranes (PPROM)
   - Severe pre-eclampsia
   - Antenatal hemorrhage

4. **Counsel woman on PTB care options**
   - **24 < 32 weeks**: Offer MgSO₄ if delivery expected within 24 hours.
   - **24 < 34 weeks**: Offer dexamethasone if no maternal infection.
   - **34 < 37 weeks**: Prepare for PTB.

5. **Monitor frequently**
   - **Mother and fetus stable?**
   - Ensure follow-up doses.

6. **Prepare for PTB**
   - See HBS Essential Care for Small Babies.

**Use this Action Plan only in facilities able to provide:**
- accurate gestational age assessment
- accurate diagnosis of conditions leading to PTB
- rapid identification and treatment of maternal infection
- adequate PT newborn care, including: resuscitation, thermal care, feeding support, infection treatment, and safe oxygen use

Follow protocol for continuing care.