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## Early Detection of Disabilities among Infants 0-1 years of Age through the Implementation of Periodic Developmental Assessment in Primary Care Setting

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**Introduction:** The Ministry of Health Malaysia has taken initiatives to improve the early detection of developmental delay among children aged 0 to 6 years through regular clinic visit and developmental screening tests. The revised child health record book (2008) included specific developmental screening at specified intervals, red flags for the various developmental domains namely gross motor, vision and fine motor, speech and language as well as social skills. To improve developmental assessment skills, nurses in primary care were trained in a multilevel training approach where intensive assessment and reassessment activities was carried out in 2014.

**Objective:** To analyze the outcome of skills training implemented.

**Methods:** Descriptive analysis of the findings from the training and administrative data collected by the Family Health Development Division

**Results:** Eighty percent of the infant population in one birth cohort attends government health clinics for regular growth and developmental assessment. There has been an increase in cases detected early from 566 in 2013 to 948 cases in 2018 i.e. a 67% increase in number of cases detected and referred for intervention

**Conclusion:** Training of nurses increase the early detection of disabilities among infants.

### Biography

Dr. Aminah Bee Mohd Kassim is a Public Health Medicine Specialist with the Family Health Development Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia with special interest in Child Health and Disability. She has been in service for the past 32 years and involved in development of policies, guidelines and protocols as well as development of manual and training modules related to early detection of disabilities, early intervention and rehabilitation services. She has participated in research related to disabilities and child development and is very much involved and passionate about training of health staff, teachers and care providers on early intervention for children with special needs.