

Recognise and manage adverse signs and symptoms in babies, children and young people

Overview

This standard covers the recognition of adverse signs of change in the condition of babies, children and young people in any health or care environment, including pain, discomfort, anxiety, fear and distress. The standard also includes the management of changes in condition, the interventions that are appropriate to the circumstances and when intervention is contra-indicated. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. establish baseline norms for health and behaviour in consultation with the child or young person, parents and carers
2. accurately document the results of the consultation in the child or young person's health records or plan of care, noting any specific or unusual patterns
3. carry out visual observations and physiological measurements on the baby, child or young person to establish the current health status, in comparison with established baseline norms and in line with plan of care
4. communicate with the baby, child or young person to establish and understand their own views on their current health status and changes in a manner appropriate to age, ability and developmental capacity
5. establish appropriate and effective physical and/or psychological methods for minimizing pain, anxiety, fear or discomfort in partnership with the child, young person, parents, carers and other members of the care team, documenting these in the plan of care
6. agree with the child, young person, parents and carers and members of the care team, the actions or interventions that will be carried out to manage changes in health status, including the most appropriate person to carry undertake these
7. carry out the agreed actions or interventions or monitor others to ensure minimum distress to the baby, child or young person
8. monitor and evaluate the effects of the actions or interventions in minimising the adverse signs and symptoms and accurately record in the care plan and records

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. legal, organisational and policy requirements relevant to your role and the activities being carried out
2. the nature, extent and boundaries of your work role and its relationship to others in your own and other organisations
3. the roles of other practitioners working with children, young people and families and how they relate between and across agencies
4. the importance of effective multi-agency working
5. the ethical issues, legal requirements and good practice guidelines on consent, including capacity issues and consent for children and young people
6. the principle of confidentiality and the implications for your practice
7. how to recognise and respond to the signs of injury, abuse or neglect and your responsibility in relation to raising concerns with the appropriate person or agency
8. local systems, procedures and protocols for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults
9. the principles of equality, diversity and anti-discriminatory practice and how they are applied
10. the guidance that is available for your own practice and where to access this
11. current issues, research and evidence based practice relevant to your role
12. the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to the child or young person
13. child and young people's development, including emotional, physical, and social and how they affect one another
14. the differing needs of children and young people at different stages of their lives
15. the conditions and issues affecting children and young people in your area of practice and how they can inter-relate
16. the effect of parenting capacity, family, environment and cultural influences on the health and wellbeing of children and young people
17. how the needs of children and young people may affect others
18. the factors that contribute to the risk of harm to children and young people
19. the importance of clear communication in clinical situations
20. clinical norms for babies, children and young people 0 to 19 with relevance to your field of practice
21. the indicators of high risk or life threatening conditions in relation to the above parameters

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22. what actions can and cannot be safely and appropriately taken with babies, children and young people to minimise physical discomfort
23. the importance of consulting and agreeing actions and interventions with the child, parents and members of the care team
24. the role of the parents or carers in promoting understanding of the child as an individual between members of the care team and the importance of this to the outcome
25. the reasons why your role, responsibilities and accountability should be explained
26. local sources of health and well-being information, advice and support for children and young people, and those involved in their care
27. the importance of keeping full and accurate records, and how to do so in line with organisational requirements

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External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):
Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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