

## Implement interventions during labour and birth

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### Overview

This standard is about working in partnership with women and their birthing partners to implement interventions according to their agreed individualised plans of care for labour and birth. It covers confirming the nature, purpose and goals of interventions, implementing interventions and monitoring the outcomes. Information about the implementation and the outcomes of the interventions will be fed into the review of the individualised care plan to ensure it reflects the changing needs and circumstances of the woman and her baby/ies. A caring and compassionate approach should be adopted in line with current healthcare guidance. 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. identify and take account of the woman's preferences for the birth of her baby/ies
2. support the woman and her birthing partner(s) to communicate their views and preferences, and encourage them to seek clarification of any procedures, information, and advice relevant to them
3. identify and respect the privacy, confidentiality and wishes of those involved
4. explore the needs and expectations of the woman and her birthing partner(s) and for their goals for the intervention
5. identify and use all sources of information about the woman's needs to inform decision making
6. provide the woman and her birthing partner(s) with any available evidence based information about the effectiveness, benefits, and risks of the intervention
7. enable and support the woman to make an informed decision about the intervention and respect her right to accept or decline specific interventions
8. obtain the valid consent of the woman for the actions to be undertaken on her behalf, and agree the information which may be passed to others
9. discuss and agree the role of the woman and her birthing partner(s) in achieving the aim of the agreed intervention
10. make arrangements for the intervention that are consistent with the woman's priority and her specific requirements
11. ensure the environment used for the intervention is suitable, and that the privacy and dignity of the woman is protected
12. apply appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
13. implement the agreed intervention in a safe and effective manner, using evidence based practices and processes
14. minimise any discomfort to the woman within the constraints imposed by the intervention method
15. encourage the birthing partner(s) to give appropriate support to the woman throughout the intervention
16. monitor the effects of the intervention on the woman and her baby/ies throughout the process, and identify any indications of increased risk
17. assess the outcomes of the intervention in relation to the goals agreed at the outset
18. take appropriate action where the effects of the intervention are not achieving the agreed goals
19. produce records and reports that are clear, comprehensive, and accurate, and maintain the security and confidentiality of information

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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 the organisation
3. the roles of other health and social care practitioners and how they relate between and across agencies
4. the legal requirements and good practice guidelines on consent, and consent for children, young people and vulnerable adults
5. how to work in partnership with women to enable them to make informed choices in the context of their own lives
6. how to recognise when women are not able to exercise their rights to make informed choices and the actions to take in response to this
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 principle of information governance and the implications for your practice
10. the importance of applying appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
11. how to communicate effectively with individuals to meet the needs of a socio-economic, culturally diverse population
12. why it is important to clarify and confirm with the woman who and to what extent she wishes to involve others as key people in her care
13. the importance of focusing on the woman as an individual and the focus of care
14. how to respect the diversity and values of individuals
15. the best available evidence based practice and its role in improving services
16. the principles of clinical risk management and how to apply them to your work
17. the normal parameters of fetal development, growth and well-being and how to recognise deviations from these
18. the physiological, psychological and emotional changes in women that occur during labour and birth and how to recognise deviations from these
19. the health and well-being needs of women during labour and birth
20. the strategies and interventions to promote or maintain optimal health and well-being of women and their babies during labour and birth

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21. the drugs and interventions which are used during labour and birth and the effects of these on the overall health and well-being of women and their babies
22. pre-existing conditions that impact on labour and birth and any additional care required to address these
23. the importance of early identification of any problems during labour and birth
24. the interdependent relationship of the health and well-being of the mother and her baby/ies
25. how the needs of women during labour and birth may affect others
26. the factors that increase the risk of significant harm to a woman and/or her baby(ies) during labour and birth
27. how to ensure that interventions are delivered as part of a co-ordinated, comprehensive and equitable service for women
28. the rights of women to accept or decline specific interventions
29. the interventions that women may have experienced
30. the purpose of agreeing goals with the woman at the start
31. the purpose of encouraging women and their birthing partners to ask questions, seek advice, and express any concerns about interventions
32. the roles which women and their birthing partners need to take if the intervention is to be successful, and how to explain and agree these with them
33. the information which it may be necessary to share with others and how to make sure that women and their birthing partner(s) are clear about this
34. how to prepare equipment, materials, work area, and yourself for the intervention
35. methods of using different interventions within your area of practice
36. how each of the interventions may be modified, consistent with evidence based practice, in order to achieve a successful outcome
37. methods of encouraging women and their birthing partners to work as active partners in implementing the intervention
38. methods of enabling the woman to be as comfortable as possible and maintaining dignity and privacy given the constraints of the particular intervention and the setting
39. the particular risks which specific interventions may have
40. how to monitor the effect of different interventions on the woman and her baby/ies and evaluate their efficacy
41. methods of establishing when the interventions should be halted
42. when to seek advice and refer women to other professionals
43. the local protocols for accessing, consulting and referral to other professionals

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44. how to keep records in accordance with organisational policies and procedures

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**External Links**

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):  
Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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