

Support individuals with feeding babies

Overview

This standard is about supporting individuals with feeding babies. It covers supporting mothers in their choice of feeding method and includes providing advice and information to the mother and key people on each feeding method. The advice and information given should reflect the best available evidence base. A caring and compassionate approach should be adopted in line with current healthcare guidance. Users of this standard will need to ensure practice reflects up to the date information and policies.

Support individuals with feeding babies

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. establish an open and supportive relationship with the mother
2. support the woman and key people 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. discuss with mother how she wishes to feed the baby
5. explain the benefits of different feeding methods and respond to any concerns and anxieties the mother or key people may have
6. apply appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
7. assist with the positioning of mother and baby for feeding, if appropriate
8. demonstrate how to hand express and assist the mother if appropriate
9. demonstrate how to make up artificial feeds and how to sterilise equipment required for feeding
10. assist with using equipment for feeding/expressing/sterilising
11. recognise and respond to situations and enquiries where your competence and authority to provide advice and information is exceeded, by:
 - 11.1 seeking appropriate advice and guidance from the relevant person or agency
 - 11.2 referring people to alternative sources of advice and information
12. explain the procedure for winding the baby and the reasons why winding is necessary
13. explain to the mother how to monitor the baby's feeding and the action to take if they have any concerns
14. produce records and reports that are clear, comprehensive, and accurate, and maintain the security and confidentiality of information
15. maintain confidentiality and share information in accordance with your organisation's information governance requirements

Support individuals with feeding babies

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 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
6. local systems, procedures and protocols for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults
7. the principle of information governance and the implications for your practice
8. how to respect the diversity and values of individuals
9. the best available evidence based practice and its role in improving services
10. the importance of applying appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
11. the socio-economic, environmental and cultural factors that can impact on the choice of feeding method
12. the anatomy and physiology related to breastfeeding
13. how to communicate effectively with individuals to meet the needs of a socio-economic, culturally diverse population
14. the health benefits of breastfeeding and how to promote these to the mother
15. the importance of promoting skin to skin contact between the mother and her baby
16. infant behaviour and the feeding cues of babies
17. changing patterns of stool and urine related to different feeding methods
18. how to position the mother and baby for feeding
19. the methods, techniques and equipment used to express breast milk and how to store expressed breast milk safely
20. alternative methods of administering expressed breast milk or artificial milk
21. types of equipment used for feeding
22. the importance of sterilising the equipment used for feeding babies
23. how to prepare bottles/artificial feeds correctly
24. how to demonstrate the correct preparation of bottles/artificial feeds to the mother

Support individuals with feeding babies

25. the difficulties that some mothers and babies may have with breastfeeding, the reasons for this and the appropriate guidance to give and action to take
26. local sources of support, peer support and information for the mother and where to access these
27. how to keep records in accordance with organisational policies and procedures

External Links

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

Dimension: HWB4 Enablement to address health and wellbeing needs

Support individuals with feeding babies

Developed by	Skills for Health
Version Number	1
Date Approved	January 2015
Indicative Review Date	January 2020
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Skills for Health
Original URN	SFHMCN27
Relevant Occupations	Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied To Medicine; Health Professionals
Suite	Maternity and Care of the Newborn
Keywords	Maternity; babies; baby; newborn; support; worker; fed; milk