

Assess the health and well-being of women and their babies during labour and birth

Overview

This standard is about assessing the health and well-being of women and their babies during labour and birth. 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.

Assess the health and well-being of women and their babies during labour and birth

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. identify the woman's preferences for the birth of her baby/ies
2. maintain confidentiality and share information in accordance with your organisation's information governance requirements
3. establish an open and supportive relationship with the woman and her birthing partner(s)
4. 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
5. explain the assessment process to the woman and her birthing partner(s) and obtain the necessary agreement and consent
6. establish any specific requirements to achieve an effective assessment
7. determine whether the services of a chaperone are required
8. use discretion, sensitivity and respect throughout the assessment
9. encourage the woman to express her own needs and to discuss them with you
10. select assessment methods that are safe for the woman and her baby(ies), appropriate to their needs, and take account of all available information and other relevant factors
11. apply appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
12. undertake the assessment and interpret the assessment results correctly
13. encourage the birthing partner(s) to give appropriate support to the woman during the assessment
14. evaluate all information from the assessment to identify potential outcomes
15. recognise when further specialist assessment or support is required, and take the necessary action
16. produce records and reports that are clear, comprehensive, and accurate, and maintain the security and confidentiality of information

Assess the health and well-being of women and their babies during labour and birth

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 importance of applying appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
10. the principle of information governance and the implications for your practice
11. the ways in which the birthing partner(s) should be involved in communication in order to deliver the most effective outcomes during labour and birth
12. the importance of focusing on the woman as an individual and the focus of care
13. how to respect the diversity and values of individuals
14. how to communicate effectively with individuals to meet the needs of a socio-economic, culturally diverse population
15. the best available evidence based practice and its role in improving services
16. the principles of clinical risk management and how to apply these 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 and how

Assess the health and well-being of women and their babies during labour and birth

these can be addressed

20. pre-existing conditions that impact on labour and birth and any additional care required to address these
21. the interdependent relationship of the health and well-being of the mother and her baby/ies
22. the importance of early identification of any problems during labour and birth
23. 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
24. how to seek advice on conditions and drugs
25. how the needs of women during childbirth may affect others
26. the use of strategies and interventions to promote the optimal health and well-being of women and their babies during labour and birth
27. the importance of offering, and having available, the services of a chaperone
28. the importance of identifying and gathering relevant information to inform the assessment
29. where this information is held and how to access this, including information held by other practitioners and agencies
30. the environment in which assessment takes place and how to address any limitations that may impact on the assessment
31. the equipment, materials and personal protective measures which will be necessary for the assessment
32. how to record your initial observations and use these to inform the assessment process
33. how to ascertain the levels of understanding that the woman and her birthing partner(s) have of the assessment process and related interventions
34. the relevant guidance for assessment and care of women and babies during labour and birth
35. the potential impact of assessments and their outcomes on the woman, her baby/ies and her birthing partner(s)
36. how to encourage and support the woman to express her own needs and the reasons for doing this
37. the assessment methods which are available for assessing and monitoring the health and well-being of women and their babies during labour and birth and evidence of their effectiveness in your area of practice
38. how to assess the health and well-being of babies immediately after birth
39. how to carry out the routine assessment of maternal health and well-being

immediately after childbirth

- 40. how to respect privacy and dignity during assessment
- 41. the importance of being aware of your own competence and scope of practice and when to refer to others for specialist assessment or support
- 42. how to keep records in accordance with organisational policies and procedures

Assess the health and well-being of women and their babies during labour and birth

External Links

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

Dimension: HWB2 Assessment and care planning to meet health and wellbeing needs

Assess the health and well-being of women and their babies during labour and birth

Developed by	Skills for Health
Version Number	2
Date Approved	January 2015
Indicative Review Date	January 2020
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Skills for Health
Original URN	SFHMCN3
Relevant Occupations	Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied To Medicine; Health Professionals
Suite	Maternity and Care of the Newborn
Keywords	Maternity; babies; baby; newborn; assess; woman; mother