

## Assess the health and well-being of babies

---

### Overview

This standard is about assessing the health and well-being of babies. It is relevant to practitioners who deliver services to babies and those involved in the care of babies. 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 babies

**Performance criteria**

You must be able to:

1. determine the priority of the baby's needs from the referral information and other sources
2. establish the type of assessment required from the information gathered
3. explain the steps in the assessment process to those involved in the care of the baby and obtain the necessary agreement and consent
4. enable those involved in the care of the baby to seek advice and express any concerns about the steps in the assessment process
5. establish any specific requirements to achieve an effective assessment of the baby
6. use discretion and respect throughout the assessment, balancing the rights of the baby with those involved in the care of the baby
7. apply appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
8. encourage and support those involved in the care of the baby to make an assessment of the baby's needs and to discuss this assessment with you
9. select the appropriate equipment in order to carry out an assessment
10. carry out the appropriate method of assessment
11. encourage those involved in the care of the baby to give appropriate support to the baby during the assessment
12. evaluate all information from the assessment to identify potential outcomes
13. recognise when a further specialist assessment is required, and take the necessary action
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

## Assess the health and well-being of 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 communicate effectively with individuals to meet the needs of a socio-economic, culturally diverse population
9. the ways in which those involved in the care of babies should be involved in communication in order to deliver the most effective outcome for the baby
10. the importance of focusing on the baby as an individual and the focus of care
11. how to respect the diversity and values of individuals
12. the types of non-verbal cues that babies give as part of communication
13. the ways in which communication can be modified to meet the different needs and development stage of the baby
14. the best available evidence based practice and its role in improving services
15. the health conditions that may affect babies in your area of practice
16. the differing needs of babies at different stages of their lives
17. the physical, psychological and social needs of neonatal development in relation to gestational age or type of delivery
18. the impact of positive parenting on the emotional well-being of babies
19. the impact of family and environment on the health and well-being of babies
20. how the needs of babies may affect others
21. the factors that increase the risk of significant harm to babies
22. the process of adaptation to extra-uterine life
23. the risk factors for premature birth
24. the characteristics of preterm / term neonate
25. the interdependent relationship of the health and well-being of the mother

## Assess the health and well-being of babies

---

- and her baby/ies
26. the importance of identifying and gathering relevant background information to inform the assessment
  27. where this information is held and how to access this, including information held by other practitioners and agencies
  28. the interventions that babies may have experienced prior to the assessment
  29. the environment in which assessment takes place and how to address any limitations that may impact on the assessment
  30. the importance of applying appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
  31. the equipment and materials 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 those involved in the care of babies have of the assessment process and related interventions
  34. the relevant guidance for the assessment of the needs of babies
  35. how socio-economic, environmental and cultural factors impact on the assessment process and the implications of this
  36. how to encourage and support those involved in the care of babies to assess the babies needs and the reasons for doing this
  37. the assessment methods which are available for assessing babies' needs and evidence of their effectiveness in your area of practice
  38. the impact of the assessment on babies and those involved in their care
  39. how to select the most appropriate assessment methods for babies
  40. how to respect privacy and dignity during assessment
  41. how to encourage those involved in the care of the baby to support them during assessment
  42. 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: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

Assess the health and well-being of babies

<b>Developed by</b>	Skills for Health
<b>Version Number</b>	2
<b>Date Approved</b>	January 2015
<b>Indicative Review Date</b>	January 2020
<b>Validity</b>	Current
<b>Status</b>	Original
<b>Originating Organisation</b>	Skills for Health
<b>Original URN</b>	SFHMCN5
<b>Relevant Occupations</b>	Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied To Medicine; Health Professionals
<b>Suite</b>	Maternity and Care of the Newborn
<b>Keywords</b>	Maternity; babies; baby; newborn; support; worker; assess