SFHMCN5

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.





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
- 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

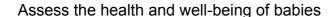
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Knowledge and understanding

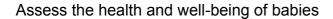
You need to know and understand:

- 1. legal, organisational and policy requirements relevant to your role and the activities being carried out
- the nature, extent and boundaries of your work role and its relationship to others in the organisation
- 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
- 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 socioeconomic, 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
- 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
- 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





- 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

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