

## Agree courses of action following assessment of the health and well-being of women and their babies

---

### Overview

This standard is about agreeing courses of action following assessment of the health and well-being of women and their babies. The standard is relevant to those working with women and babies in the antenatal, intrapartum or postnatal period.

The standard covers the discussion of assessment outcomes and agreeing what actions to take in relation to promoting the health and well-being of women and their 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.

Agree courses of action following assessment of the health and well-being of women and their babies

---

## Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. establish an open and supportive relationship with the woman and key people
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. discuss the outcomes of the assessment with the woman and key people in a way that is meaningful to them
4. agree the actions to be taken with the woman and key people based on the information gained from the assessment and other relevant factors
5. make arrangements in relation to the actions to meet the needs of the woman and her baby/ies
6. produce referrals to other practitioners that contain all the necessary information and are presented clearly and logically
7. maintain confidentiality and share information in accordance with your organisation's information governance requirements
8. produce records and reports that are clear, comprehensive, and accurate, and maintain the security and confidentiality of information

Agree courses of action following assessment of the health and well-being of women and their 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. how to work in partnership with women to enable them to make informed choices in the context of their own lives
8. 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
9. the principle of information governance and the implications for your practice
10. how to communicate effectively with individuals to meet the needs of a socio-economic, culturally diverse population
11. the importance of focusing on the woman and/or her baby/ies as individuals and the focus for care
12. how to respect the diversity and values of individuals
13. the best available evidence based practice and its role in improving services
14. the principles of clinical risk management and how to apply these to your work
15. the health conditions affecting women and babies in your area of practice
16. the interdependent relationship of the health and well-being of the mother and her baby/ies
17. the benefits of engaging the father/partner in the care of the woman and the baby/ies
18. the physiological, psychological and emotional changes in women that occur during pregnancy and birth
19. neonatal development, including physiological, physical and psychological development, taking into account gestational age or delivery
20. the process of adaptation to extra-uterine life
21. the risk factors for premature birth

Agree courses of action following assessment of the health and well-being of women and their babies

---

22. the characteristics of preterm / term neonates
23. the impact of positive parenting on the emotional well-being of babies
24. the positive and negative impact of social relationships and environment on the health and well-being of women and their babies
25. how the needs of women and babies may affect others
26. the factors that increase the risk of significant harm to women and their babies
27. the actions to take in response to concerns about the health and well-being of women and babies
28. methods of evaluating the subsequent action which may be necessary given different outcomes
29. how to explain the outcomes of the assessment and the subsequent actions which may be necessary
30. the different fears and concerns that women and key people may have about the outcomes of the assessment
31. the reasons why it is important to be honest and transparent concerning the outcome of the assessment
32. the risks which may be inherent in various courses of action and how to evaluate these realistically
33. the resources available to meet the needs of the woman and/or her baby/ies within your own and other organisations and how to access these
34. the referral process within women and children's services
35. how to keep records in accordance with organisational policies and procedures

Agree courses of action following assessment of the health and well-being of women and their babies

---

### 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

Agree courses of action following assessment of the health and well-being of women and their 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>	SFHMCN6
<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; care; plan