

<p><b>SUBJECT/TITLE:</b> <b>Infant Feeding Assessment – Community/Acute</b></p> <p><b>AUTHORIZATION:</b> POPA (2006 Feb 14) INN (2006 April 20) Infant Feeding Steering Committee Normal Newborn Care Committee (2006 April 21) Regional Neonatal Care Committee (2006 May 3) Women's Health Managers (2006 May 9)</p>	<p><b>NUMBER</b> <b>1-F-1</b></p>	<p><b>PAGE</b> <b>1 of 4</b></p>
	<p><b>DATE ESTABLISHED</b>  May 23, 2006</p>	<p><b>DATE REVISED</b></p>

**PURPOSE**

1. To provide recommendations for the frequency of a breastfeeding assessment within the maternal/infant health care setting.
2. To provide criteria for Maternal/Infant Health Care Professionals when performing a comprehensive infant feeding assessment in the postpartum period.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

- Ongoing feeding assessment will be done by the nurse in acute care with every mother/ infant dyad
- A feeding assessment will be completed by the Public Health Nurse at the initial telephone contact, the initial home visit and at any further contacts where feeding questions and /or concerns are identified.
- Teaching will follow whenever a need is identified.

**POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. Feeding is not a single behaviour but a series of behaviours.
2. An effective feeding includes all the normal parameters as outlined in the "Infant Feeding Assessment Practice Guidelines."
3. Skin-to-skin facilitates infant's readiness to feed. (Kangaroo Mother Care KMC®)

**PROCEDURE**

1. Assessment
  - 1.1. A Breastfeeding Assessment will include the following criteria as per the Feeding Assessment Guidelines #: 4-F-1
    - historical variables
    - readiness to feed
    - positioning for both mother/ infant
    - rooting reflex and latching
    - suck - change in rhythm
    - swallows - audible
    - satiation cues
    - mother's physical comfort
    - mother's confidence level
    - number of feeds
    - stools
    - voids

SUBJECT/TITLE:  <b>Infant Feeding Assessment – Community/Acute</b>	DATE ESTABLISHED:  May 23, 2006	DATE REVISED:	NUMBER:  <b>1-F-1</b>	PAGE:  2 of 4
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1.2. A Bottlefeeding Assessment will include the following criteria as per the Feeding Assessment Guidelines #:4-F-1

- readiness
- positioning
- suck and swallow
- satiation cues
- mother's confidence
- number of feeds
- stools
- voids

**DOCUMENTATION:**

Document assessment on appropriate form for acute care are and community.

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SUBJECT/TITLE:  <b>Infant Feeding Assessment – Community/Acute</b>	DATE ESTABLISHED:  May 23, 2006	DATE REVISED:	NUMBER:  <b>1-F-1</b>	PAGE:  3 of 4
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SUBJECT/TITLE: <b>Infant Feeding Assessment – Community/Acute</b>	DATE ESTABLISHED: May 23, 2006	DATE REVISED:	NUMBER: <b>1-F-1</b>	PAGE: 4 of 4
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

**Subject/Title**

**Number**

**Manual**

- |   |       |   |
|---|-------|---|
| • Admission to Postpartum Unit and Care of Mother Following Vaginal Birth   | 3-A-3 | <i>Women's &amp; Infant Health</i>                          |
| • Admission to Postpartum Unit and Care of Mother Following Cesarean Birth  | 3-A-4 | <i>Women's &amp; Infant Health</i>                          |
| • Breastfeeding Support   | 3-B-2 | <i>Women's &amp; Infant Health</i>                          |
| • Daily Care and Assessment of Well Newborn after the First 4 Hours of Life   | 4-D-3 | <i>Women's &amp; Infant Health</i>                          |
| • Discharge: Postpartum Mothers and Newborns From Hospital  | 4-D-2 | <i>Women's &amp; Infant Health</i>                          |
| • From Here Through Maternity, (2006)   |       | <i>Women's &amp; Infant Health</i>                          |
| • Glucose (Blood) Monitoring and Feeding of the Term Newborn Infant at Risk for Hypoglycemia  | 4-G-1 | <i>Postpartum Community Service Nursing Practice manual</i> |
| • Infant Assessment Guidelines: Postpartum Community services   |       | <i>Postpartum Community Service Nursing Practice manual</i> |
| • Infant Assessment Protocol: Postpartum Community services   |       | <i>Postpartum Community Service Nursing Practice manual</i> |
| • Initial Telephone Contact-Mother and Infant Discharged Together: Postpartum Community services  |       | <i>Postpartum Community Service Nursing Practice manual</i> |
| • Initial Home Visit-Mother and Infant Discharged Together: Postpartum Community services   |       | <i>Women's &amp; Infant Health</i>                          |
| • Kangaroo Care   |       | <i>Postpartum Community Service Nursing Practice manual</i> |
| • Maternal Assessment Guidelines: Postpartum Community Services   | 2-K-1 | <i>Postpartum Community Service Nursing Practice manual</i> |
| • Maternal Assessment Protocol: Postpartum Community Services   | 4-A-1 | <i>Women's &amp; Infant Health</i>                          |
| • Well Newborn Admission, Assessment and Management During the First Four Hours of Life and Physician/Midwife Notification: Labor & Delivery & Postpartum |       |   |