

Management of the healthy term sleepy baby in the first 24–48 hours

Individualise the care of each mother and baby according to the clinical circumstances

Baby has not fed

- By 2 hours post birth **or**
- For 8 hours since last feed in first 24 hours of life **or**
- For 5 hours since last feed if more than 24 hours old

Review baby

- History
- Health records
- Output
- Clinical assessment (Temperature, heart rate, respiration and colour)

Review maternal history

- Medical, surgical, pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Substance use (prescribed, illicit)
- Intrapartum record (mode of birth, Apgars)
- Postpartum assessment (clinical pathway, feeding)

Assess baby

Concerns identified?

Yes

No

Implement waking strategies with mother

Waking strategies

- Initiate skin to skin contact
- Temporarily remove wraps
- Change nappy
- Gently massage arms, legs, back
- Observe for feeding cues

Attempt breastfeed

Breastfeed successful?

Yes

No

Give EBM

EBM unavailable?

- Discuss options with mother, midwife and medical officer
- Develop feeding plan

Baby took EBM?

Yes

No

Best practice
Provide EBM prior to any infant formula

Ongoing care

- Assess breastfeeding
- Initiate waking strategies as required
- Monitor output/feeding patterns
- Support mother to express as required
- Refer as clinically indicated
- Document progress

Review and consider

- Support for expressing
- Giving EBM
- Monitoring BGL
- Continuing waking strategies
- Developing/documenting a feeding plan
- Seeking expert advice (e.g. from lactation consultant)
- Medical review

Queensland Clinical Guideline: Establishing breastfeeding. Guideline No: MN16.19-V3-R21

EBM: expressed breast milk; BGL: blood glucose level

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