



Care procedures

Temperature management in newborn infants

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Statement of the standard

Environmental management of temperature and humidity is necessary to optimise the management of newborn infants.



For parents and family

- Parents are informed by healthcare professionals about the ideal body temperature and importance of temperature management.
- Parents are invited to measure their infant's temperature.
- Skin-to-skin care is provided as soon as possible.



For neonatal unit

- A unit guideline on temperature management is available and regularly updated.
- Appropriate facilities for temperature management are available.



For hospitals

- Training on temperature management is ensured.
- Appropriate facilities for neonatal temperature management are provided.

Benefits

Short-term benefits

- Reduced risk of hypothermia
- Reduced risk of hyperthermia
- Minimises trans-epidermal water loss
- Improved comfort and reduced physiologic instability and stress
- Stabilised body temperature by skin-to-skin care

Long-term benefits

- Improved developmental outcomes



For healthcare professionals

- A unit guideline on temperature management is adhered to by all healthcare professionals.
- Training on temperature measurement, management including incubator settings for the best thermal environment, the importance of maintaining normothermia in the newborn infant, and the risks of hypothermia and hyperthermia, is attended by all responsible healthcare professionals.



For health service

- Rates of hypo- and hyperthermia are monitored.

