



Support for parental-infant bonding

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Statement of the standard

The fostering of early bonding between parents and their newborn infant is pursued through strategies which promote early contact for the parent-infant dyad.



For parents and family

- Parents are informed by healthcare professionals about strategies to enhance bonding.
- Parents are facilitated to initiate intimate contacts with their infant, as soon as possible and guided in their understanding of their infant's behaviour.



For healthcare professionals

- A unit guideline on early parent-infant contact, including both mother and father/partner's needs is adhered to by all healthcare professionals.
- Training on facilitation of parent-infant bonding is attended by all responsible healthcare professionals.



For hospital

- Training on facilitation of parent-infant bonding is ensured.
- Psychological support to promote bonding is ensured.

Benefits

Short-term benefits

- Facilitated parental attachment behaviour and the process of becoming a parent
- Increased pleasure in interaction with the infant
- Facilitated recognition and response to the infant's signals
- Increased rate of breastfeeding
- Improved neurobehaviour
- Reduced length of hospital stay

Long-term benefits

- Improved neurodevelopmental outcome
- Improved physiologic stability and cognitive development
- Increased quality of parent-infant interaction
- Improved emotional well-being of infants and parents
- Reduced maternal depression and/or anxiety



For neonatal unit

- A unit guideline on early parent-infant contact, including both mother and father/partner's needs is available and regularly updated.
- The unit design supporting early contact, closeness and parent-infant intimacy is ensured.



For health service

- N/A

