



## Birth & transfer

# Information provision for women about the risk for preterm birth

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## Statement of the standard

All (pregnant) women receive timely information and counselling about potential risk factors for and signs and symptoms of preterm birth and how to find appropriate healthcare advice.



## For parents and family

- (Pregnant) women are informed by healthcare professionals about risk factors and also symptoms and/or signs for impending pregnancy complications.
- Accurate communication (all essential information) is provided.



## For perinatal unit

- A unit guideline on procedures and algorithms for the management of threatened preterm birth and underlying conditions is available and regularly updated.
- Women at risk for very preterm birth are referred and transferred to appropriate delivery clinic in a timely fashion.



## For healthcare professionals

- Training on the risks and signs of preterm birth and tools for assessment of risk for impending preterm birth is attended by all responsible healthcare professionals.
- Professional and empathic communication is provided.
- Women at risk for very preterm birth are cared for exclusively in specialist centres.



## For hospital

- Training on the risks and signs of preterm birth and tools for assessment of risk for impending preterm birth is ensured.
- Continuous quality improvement programme is in place.



## For health service

- A national guideline on procedures and algorithms for the management of threatened preterm birth and underlying conditions is available and regularly updated.
- Regional networks for perinatal care are established.
- Risk reduction programmes are in place.
- An appropriate working environment for pregnant women is provided by employers.

## Benefits

Short-term benefits:

- Better informed women and partners
- Improved pregnancy follow-up
- Earlier recognition of impending complications
- Earlier transfer/referral to a specialist
- Better and earlier initiation of prophylactic or therapeutic regimens
- Reduced perinatal mortality and morbidity
- Reduced maternal mortality and morbidity
- Reduced healthcare costs

Long-term benefits:

- Improved short- and long-term outcomes (mother and infant/child)
- Reduced healthcare costs
- Increased population awareness about pregnancy complications

