



Nutrition

The role of nutrient supplements for preterm infants

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Statement of the standard

Preterm infants are given supplements to reduce nutritional deficits.

Benefits

Short-term benefits:

- Reduced risk of nutrient deficits

Long-term benefits:

- Reduced risk of long-term sequelae of early nutritional deficit (e.g. growth faltering, anaemia, rickets)



For parents and family

- Parents are informed by healthcare professionals about the importance of providing supplements to prevent nutritional deficits.
- Parents are informed by healthcare professionals about the importance of continuing the supplements when their infant is discharged home.



For healthcare professionals

- A unit guideline on infant nutrition, including screening for selective deficits and their management during the inpatient and outpatient periods, is adhered to by all healthcare professionals.
- Training on infant nutrition, including screening for selective deficits and their management during the inpatient and outpatient periods, is attended by all responsible healthcare professionals.
- Selective nutritional deficits that may occur in preterm infants are screened for and the appropriate prescriptions are given.



For neonatal unit

- A unit guideline on infant nutrition, including screening for selective deficits and their management during the inpatient and outpatient periods, is available and regularly updated.



For hospital

- Training on infant nutrition, including screening for selective deficits and their management during the inpatient and outpatient periods is ensured.
- Supplements are made available for use.



For health service

- A national guideline on infant nutrition, including screening for selective deficits and their management during the inpatient and outpatient periods is available and regularly updated.
- Supplements for outpatient care are made available and reimbursed.

