

Appendix: Indicators for monitoring

Protecting, promoting and supporting

BREASTFEEDING IN FACILITIES

providing maternity and newborn services:
the revised Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative



World Health
Organization

Table 1. Recommended indicators for facility-based monitoring of the key clinical practices for the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding

Key clinical practice	Proposed indicator definition	Target	Primary source	Additional sources
Step 3: Discuss the importance and management of breastfeeding with pregnant women and their families.	The percentage of mothers of preterm and term infants who received prenatal care at the facility who received prenatal counselling on breastfeeding	≥80%	Interviews with mothers of preterm and term infants	Clinical records
Step 4: Facilitate immediate and uninterrupted skin-to-skin contact and support mothers to initiate breastfeeding as soon as possible after birth.	The percentage of mothers of term infants whose babies were placed in skin-to-skin contact with them immediately or within 5 minutes after birth and that this contact that lasted 1 hour or more	≥80%	Interviews of mothers of term infants	Clinical records
	SENTINEL INDICATOR: The percentage of term infants who were put to the breast within 1 hour after birth	≥80%	Clinical records	Interviews with mothers of term infants
Step 5: Support mothers to initiate and maintain breastfeeding and manage common difficulties.	The percentage of breastfeeding mothers of term infants who are able to demonstrate how to position their baby for breastfeeding and that the baby can suckle and transfer milk	≥80%	Interviews with mothers of term infants	
	The percentage of breastfeeding mothers of term infants who can describe at least two indicators of whether a breastfed baby consumes adequate milk	≥80%	Interviews with mothers of term infants	
	The percentage of mothers of breastfed preterm and term infants who can correctly demonstrate or describe how to express breast milk	≥80%	Interviews with mothers of preterm and term infants	Clinical records
Step 6: Do not provide breastfed newborns any food or fluids other than breast milk, unless medically indicated.	SENTINEL INDICATOR: The percentage of infants (preterm and term) who received only breast milk (either from their own mother or from a human milk bank) throughout their stay at the facility	≥80%	Clinical records	Interviews with mothers of preterm and term infants
Step 7: Enable mothers and their infants to remain together and to practise rooming-in 24 hours a day.	The percentage of mothers of term infants whose babies stayed with them since birth, without separation lasting for more than 1 hour	≥80%	Interviews with mothers of term infants	Clinical records

Key clinical practice	Proposed indicator definition	Target	Primary source	Additional sources
Step 8: Support mothers to recognize and respond to their infants' cues for feeding.	The percentage of breastfeeding mothers of term infants who can describe at least two feeding cues	≥80%	Interviews with mothers of term infants	
Step 9: Counsel mothers on the use and risks of feeding bottles, teats and pacifiers.	The percentage of breastfeeding mothers of preterm and term infants who report having been taught about the risks of using feeding bottles, teats and pacifiers	≥80%	Interviews with mothers of preterm and term infants	
Step 10: Coordinate discharge so that parents and their infants have timely access to ongoing support and care.	The percentage of mothers of preterm and term infants who report that a staff member has informed them where they can access breastfeeding support in their community	≥80%	Interviews with mothers of preterm and term infants	

Table 2. Recommended indicators for facility-based assessment of critical management procedures for the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding

Recommendation	Proposed indicators	Target	Means of verification
Step 1a: Comply fully with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and relevant World Health Assembly resolutions (the Code).	Evidence that all breast-milk substitutes, feeding bottles and teats used in the facility have been purchased through normal procurement channels and not received through free or subsidized supplies	Demonstrated	Review of facility purchasing records
	Display of products covered under the Code or items with names or logos of companies that produce breast-milk substitutes, feeding bottles and teats, or names of products covered under the Code	Not displayed	Observations in the facility
	Existence of a policy that describes how it abides by the Code, including procurement of breast-milk substitutes, not accepting support or gifts from producers or distributors of products covered by the Code and not giving samples of breast-milk substitutes, feeding bottles or teats to mothers	Exists	Review of infant feeding policy
	The percentage of health professionals who provide antenatal, delivery and/or newborn care who can explain at least two elements of the Code	≥80%	Interviews with clinical staff
Step 1b: Have a written infant feeding policy that is routinely communicated to staff and parents.	Existence of a written infant feeding policy that addresses the implementation of all eight key clinical practices of the Ten Steps, Code implementation, and regular competency assessment	Exists	Review of infant feeding policy
	Display of a summary of the policy for pregnant women, mothers and their families	Displayed	Observation of posted policy
	Alignment of clinical protocols or standards related to breastfeeding and infant feeding with BFHI standards and current evidence-based guidelines.	In alignment	Review of clinical protocols and standards
	The percentage of clinical staff who provide antenatal delivery and/or newborn care who can explain at least two elements of the infant feeding policy that influence their role in the facility	≥80%	Interviews with clinical staff

Recommendation	Proposed indicators	Target	Means of verification
Step 1c: Establish ongoing monitoring and data-management systems.	Existence of a protocol for an ongoing monitoring and data-management system to comply with the eight key clinical practices	Exists	Documentation of protocol
	The frequency with which clinical staff at the facility meet to review implementation of the system	At least every 6 months	Documentation meeting schedule
Step 2: Ensure that staff have sufficient knowledge, competence and skills to support breastfeeding.	The percentage of health professionals who provide antenatal, delivery and/or newborn care who report they have received pre-service or in-service training on breastfeeding during the previous 2 years	≥80%	Interviews with clinical staff
	The percentage of health professionals who report receiving competency assessments in breastfeeding in the previous 2 years	≥80%	Interviews with clinical staff
	The percentage of health professionals members who provide antenatal, delivery, and/or newborn care who are able to correctly answer three out of four questions on breastfeeding knowledge and skills to support breastfeeding	≥80%	Interviews with clinical staff

Table 3. Indicators for national and subnational monitoring of protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding in facilities providing maternity and newborn services

Indicator	Definition	Primary source	Possible additional sources
Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework Indicators			
Exclusive breastfeeding in infants aged under 6 months	The percentage of infants aged 0–5 months who received only breast milk during the previous day	Household surveys (MICS, DHS, etc.)	
Births In Baby-friendly facilities (“BFHI coverage”)	The percentage of births occurring in facilities that have been designated as “Baby-friendly”, have “passed” external assessment, or have met a specific level of compliance with BFHI standards (as per the national programme) within the past 5 years	Reports on programme implementation; national database where present	
Clinical practice indicators			
Antenatal counselling	The percentage of mothers of who received antenatal counselling on breastfeeding	Household surveys (MICS, DHS, etc.)	HMIS, exit interviews, facility surveys
Early skin-to-skin contact	The percentage of mothers who had skin-to-skin contact with their baby immediately or within 5 minutes after birth that lasted 1 hour or more	Household surveys (MICS, DHS, etc.)	HMIS, Exit interviews, facility surveys
Early initiation of breastfeeding	The percentage of mothers who put their infant to the breast within 1 hour after birth	Household surveys (MICS, DHS, etc.)	HMIS, exit interviews, facility surveys
Support with breastfeeding	The percentage of mothers who received support with learning to breastfeed after delivery	Household surveys (MICS, DHS, etc.)	HMIS, exit interviews, facility surveys
Exclusive breastfeeding during facility stay	The percentage of mothers reporting that their infants received only breast milk (either from their own mother or from a human milk bank) throughout their stay at a facility	Household surveys (MICS, DHS, etc.)	HMIS, exit interviews, facility surveys
Rooming-in	The percentage of mothers whose babies stayed with them since birth, without separation lasting for more than 1 hour	Household surveys (MICS, DHS, etc.)	HMIS, exit interviews, facility surveys

Indicator	Definition	Primary source	Possible additional sources
Referral to community support	The percentage of mothers who report that they were informed where they can access breastfeeding support in their community	Household surveys (MICS, DHS, etc.)	HMIS, exit interviews, facility surveys
Overall compliance with BFHI standards (alternative BFHI coverage indicator)	The percentage of mothers answering affirmatively on at least 6 of the above 7 practices	Household surveys (MICS, DHS, etc.)	HMIS, exit interviews, facility surveys
BFHI programmatic output indicators			
Regulation of BFHI standards (if regulation is decentralized to provincial level)	The percentage of provinces/states/districts with regulations on Baby-friendly standards	Reports (to be defined at country level)	
Pre-service training on the BFHI standards	The percentage of newly graduated health professionals who received training on the updated BFHI standards	Reports (to be defined at country level)	
In-service training on the BFHI standards	The percentage of practising health professionals who received in-service training on the updated BFHI standards	Reports (to be defined at country level)	
Ongoing operation of the external assessment process	The percentage of facilities providing maternity and newborn services that have completed an external assessment in the past 3–5 years	Reports (to be defined at country level)	

BFHI: Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative; DHS: demographic and health survey; HMIS: health management information system; MICS: multiple indicator cluster survey.