SECTION 1.3
THE GLOBAL CRITERIA FOR THE BFHI

Criteria for the 10 Steps and other components

The Global Criteria for the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative serve as the standard for measuring adherence to each of the Ten Steps for Successful Breastfeeding and the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. The criteria listed below for each of the Ten Steps and the Code are the minimum global criteria for baby-friendly designation. Additional criteria are provided for "mother-friendly care" and "HIV and infant feeding". It is recommended that the criteria for "mother-friendly care" be implemented gradually, after maternity staff has received necessary training on this topic. Relevant decision-makers in each country should decide whether the criteria on HIV and infant feeding should be required, depending on the prevalence of HIV among women using the maternity facilities.

The BFHI Self-Appraisal Tool, presented in Section 4 of this series, gives maternity facilities a tool for making a preliminary assessment of whether they are fully implementing the Ten Steps, adhering to the International Code of Marketing, and meeting criteria related to mother-friendly care and HIV and infant feeding. The Global Criteria actually describe how "baby-friendliness" will be judged during the external assessment, and thus can be very useful for maternity staff to study as they work to get ready for assessment. The Global Criteria are listed both here and after the respective sections of the Self Appraisal Tool, for easy reference during self-appraisal.

It is important that the hospital consider adding the collection of statistics on infant feeding and implementation of the Ten Steps into its maternity record-keeping system, if it has not done so already. It is best if this data collection process be integrated into whatever information gathering system is already in place. If the hospital needs guidance on how to gather this data and possible forms to use, responsible staff can refer to the sample data-gathering tools available in Section 4.2: Guidelines and Tools for Monitoring BFHI.