

STEP 5. Show mothers how to breastfeed and how to maintain lactation, even if they should be separated from their infants.

Global Criteria - Step Five

The head of maternity services reports that mothers who have never breastfed or who have previously encountered problems with breastfeeding receive special attention and support both in the antenatal and postpartum periods.

Observations of staff demonstrating how to safely prepare and feed breast-milk substitutes confirm that in 75% of the cases, the demonstrations were accurate and complete, and the mothers were asked to give “return demonstrations”.

Out of the randomly selected clinical staff members:

- At least 80% report that they teach mothers how to position and attach their babies for breastfeeding and are able to describe or demonstrate correct techniques for both or, if not, can describe to whom they refer mothers on their shifts for this advice.
- At least 80% report that they teach mothers how to hand express and can describe or demonstrate an acceptable technique for this, or, if not, can describe to whom they refer mothers on their shifts for this advice.
- At least 80% can describe how non-breastfeeding mothers can be assisted to safely prepare their feeds, or can describe to whom they refer mothers on their shifts for this advice.

Out of the randomly selected mothers (including caesarean):

- At least 80% of those who are breastfeeding report that someone on the staff offered further assistance with breastfeeding within six hours of birth.
- At least 80% of those who are breastfeeding report that someone on the staff offered them help with positioning and attaching their babies for breastfeeding.
- At least 80% of those who are breastfeeding are able to demonstrate or describe correct positioning of their babies for breastfeeding.
- At least 80% of those who are breastfeeding are able to describe what signs would indicate that their babies are attached and suckling well.
- At least 80% of those who are breastfeeding report that they were shown how to express their milk by hand or given written information and told where they could get help if needed.
- At least 80% of the mothers who have decided not to breastfeed report that they have been offered help in preparing and giving their babies feeds, can describe the advice they were given, and have been asked to prepare feeds themselves, after being shown how.

Out of the randomly selected mothers with babies in special care:

- At least 80% of those who are breastfeeding or intending to do so report that they have been offered help to start their breast milk coming and to keep up the supply within 6 hours of their babies' births.
- At least 80% of those breastfeeding or intending to do so report that they have been shown how to express their breast milk by hand.
- At least 80% of those breastfeeding or intending to do so can adequately describe and demonstrate how they were shown to express their breast milk by hand.
- At least 80% of those breastfeeding or intending to do so report that they have been told they need to breastfeed or express their milk 6 times or more every 24 hours to keep up their supply.