

**STEP 6. Give newborn infants no food or drink other than breast milk, unless medically indicated.**

**Global Criteria - Step Six**

Hospital data indicate that at least 75% of the babies delivered in the last year have been exclusively breastfed or exclusively fed expressed breast milk from birth to discharge or, if not, that there were documented medical reasons.

Review of all clinical protocols or standards related to breastfeeding and infant feeding used by the maternity services indicates that they are in line with BFHI standards and current evidence-based guidelines.

No materials that recommend feeding breast milk substitutes, scheduled feeds or other inappropriate practices are distributed to mothers.

The hospital has an adequate facility/space and the necessary equipment for giving demonstrations of how to prepare formula and other feeding options away from breastfeeding mothers.

Observations in the postpartum wards/rooms and any well baby observation areas show that at least 80% of the babies are being fed only breast milk or there are acceptable medical reasons for receiving something else.

At least 80% of the randomly selected mothers report that their babies had received only breast milk or expressed or banked human milk or, if they had received anything else, it was for acceptable medical reasons, described by the staff.

At least 80% of the randomly selected mothers who have decided not to breastfeed report that the staff discussed with them the various feeding options and helped them to decide what was suitable in their situations.

At least 80% of the randomly selected mothers with babies in special care who have decided not to breastfeed report that staff has talked with them about risks and benefits of various feeding options.

**STEP 7. Practice rooming-in - allow mothers and infants to remain together – 24 hours a day.**

**Global Criteria - Step Seven**

Observations in the postpartum wards and any well-baby observation areas and discussions with mothers and staff confirm that at least 80% of the mothers and babies are together or, if not, have justifiable reasons for being separated.

At least 80% of the randomly selected mothers report that their babies have been in the same room with them without separation or, if not, there were justifiable reasons.

**STEP 8. Encourage breastfeeding on demand.**

**Global Criteria - Step Eight**

Out of the randomly selected breastfeeding mothers:

- At least 80% report that they have been told how to recognize when their babies are hungry and can describe at least two feeding cues.
- At least 80% report that they have been advised to feed their babies as often and for as long as the babies want or something similar.