

Level of Evidence
Clinical Guidelines
Royal Children's Hospital

The Hierarchy of Evidence

The Hierarchy of evidence is based on the National Health and Medical Research Council (2000) and Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine Levels of Evidence (May 2001)

- I** Evidence obtained from a systematic review of all relevant randomised control trials.
- II** Evidence obtained from at least one properly designed randomised control trial.
- III-1** Evidence obtained from well-designed pseudo-randomised controlled trials (alternative allocation or some other method).
- III-2** Evidence obtained from comparative studies (including systematic reviews of such studies) with concurrent controls and allocation not randomised, cohort studies, case control studies, or interrupted time series with a control group.
- III-3** Evidence obtained from comparative studies with historical control, two or more single-arm studies, or interrupted time series without a parallel control group.
- IV** Evidence obtained from case-series, either post-test or pre-test and post test.
- V** Expert opinion without critical appraisal, or based on physiology, bench research, or historically based clinical principles.

Clinical guidelines are based on reviews of the best available evidence. **Level 1 evidence represents the gold standard for intervention studies;** however it is not available for all areas of practice and for some guidelines it may be appropriate to utilise results from studies with lower levels of evidence. Some clinical guidelines may also be informed by experts in the field, locally (RCH) and internationally (Journal articles) (expert opinion) etc. This NHMRC Hierarchy can be used to grade evidence. Please record details on the evidence table and return to Clinical Quality and Safety (CQS) with guideline draft. The Evidence table can be filled out electronically or printed and used as a hard copy.

Please contact Jody Smith Clinical Guideline and Path Coordinator on ext 6956 if you have any concerns or require assistance.

**Hospital Clinical Guidelines
EVIDENCE TABLE**

GUIDELINE TOPIC:

Please record all references used in developing the clinical guideline. This form must be filled out electronically and emailed to Jody.Smith@rch.org.au

NB: If you need assistance with completing this table, please contact Jody Smith on x 6956.

Reference (include title, author, journal title, year of publication, volume and issue, pages)	Method	Evidence level (I-V)	Summary of recommendation from this reference (point form)
1.Akre J. Infant feeding;the physiological basis, Geneva,WHO, 1989			Benefits to infant and mother
2.Hoddinott P,Tapin D, Wright C. Breast feeding, BMJ,2008;336;881-7	Summary document re breast feeding		Evidence tables presented of studies relating to short and long term benefits to health of mother and infant Section on practical strategies to use to manage breastfeeding problems.
3.ABM Protocols; Model breastfeeding policy, Breastfeeding Medicine,2,1,2007,50-55	Produced by DHHS in USA to support and promote BF, comprehensive recent review		Indicates key issues for breastfeeding support and promotion in a hospital setting.
4.Lawrence R. Breastfeeding a guide for the medical profession, 5 th ed, Mosby 1999.			Benefits to infant and mother
5.WHO Innocenti Declaration on the Protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding. UNICEF, New York 1990.			The definitive statement regarding the importance of breastfeeding and the protections and promotion of this

<p>6.PD Hill, Johnson, TS Assessment of breastfeeding and infant growth, Jnl Midwifery & Women's Health, 52,6,nov/dec 2007.</p>	<p>Describes tools used to assess bf and compares to actual intakes</p>		<p>Assessment tools for breastfeeding in a clear concise presentation</p>
<p>7.Good practice guidelines for breastfeeding in paediatric units, Ped nursing, 10 (1),29-33,1998</p>			<p>A document prepared by the Royal College of Nursing in order to support breastfeeding in paediatric wards and units</p>
<p>8. RCH anaesthesia and pain management website http://www.rch.org.au/anaes/health-info/index.cfm?doc_id=779</p>			<p>Parents information regarding recommended fasting times</p>
<p>9.Royal Aust College of Physicians, Paediatric policy; Breastfeeding, August 2006</p>			<p>An extensive document stating the college of physicians policy on the support , promotion and advantages of breastfeeding.</p>
<p>10.Osborn DA, Sinn J. Formulas containing hydrolysed protein for prevention of allergy and food intolerance in infants. <i>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews</i> 2006, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD003664. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD003664.pub3.</p>			
<p>11. <i>The Royal Womens Hospital Breastfeeding, Best Practice guidelines</i> http://www.thewomens.org.au/BreastfeedingBestPracticeGuidelines</p>			