

Excessive weight loss in the first weeks of life - a national collaborative audit

This audit/survey, coordinated by the Hospital Infant Feeding Network (www.hifn.org) seeks to understand the range of clinical practice and performance around excessive weight loss in the first weeks of life across the UK, and how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected this.

Please go through your local governance protocol to register your audit locally and inform them that you will be sharing anonymised aggregated statistics with us (individual Trusts will not have their performance shared by name in these national results). The Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust Joint Research Office has confirmed that the survey questions do not need formal ethical approval

***Required**

1. Before you fill out this form please confirm the following:

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ I am entering data covering one whole NHS trust, including all sites where babies may be admitted into a hospital setting in the first month of life (for example, postnatal ward, neonatal unit or paediatric ward)
- ☐ I have read the full guidance on how to conduct this audit so that it will be comparable across NHS Trusts
- ☐ I have completed local governance policies to register the audit and informed them that anonymised aggregate statistics will be shared with the Hospital Infant Feeding Network for national benchmarking

2. Which NHS trust are you responding for? (please give the full name and spell out acronyms)

3. What is your role? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Midwife/maternity infant feeding lead
- ☐ Doctor/nurse practitioner
- ☐ Other:

4. Please provide contact details in case we need to clarify any of your data or answers. We will not share these contact details with any other organisations and we will destroy them six months after the audit is complete. You can contact hospitalifnuk@gmail.com at any time to request that your details be removed

September 1st 2019 to
February 29th 2020

This section covers your standard practice in the six month period before the Covid-19 pandemic

5. In the six month period 1/9/19 to 29/2/20 how many babies (born at 34 weeks gestation or more) were assessed or treated in a hospital setting in the first three weeks of life with weight loss of 12.5% or more of their birthweight? Please give a whole number

6. In the six month period 1/9/19 to 29/2/20 how many babies (born at 34 weeks gestation or more) were assessed or treated in a hospital setting in the first three weeks of life with weight loss of 15% or more of their birthweight? Please give a whole number

7. In the six month period 1/9/19 to 29/2/20 how many babies (born at 34 weeks gestation or more) in the first three weeks of life had a plasma sodium value of 155 mmol/l or higher? Please give a whole number

8. How many babies are born within the care of your NHS trust in a six month period (include any babies who would be seen within your NHS trust hospital/s for concerns about excessive weight loss, for example this might include home births and standalone midwife led units). This can be an approximate number

9. What was your Unicef UK Baby Friendly Initiative status at 29th February 2020?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ No accreditation
- ☐ Stage 1 achieved (any unit within the trust)
- ☐ Stage 2 achieved (any unit within the trust)
- ☐ Stage 3 achieved (any unit within the trust)
- ☐ Gold award achieved (any unit within the trust)

10. What day did you routinely re-weigh healthy, term babies (breastfed or mixed fed)?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Day 3
- ☐ Day 5
- ☐ Other: _____

11. Did you have a written guideline relating to excessive weight loss in the first weeks of life?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes - standalone guideline
- ☐ Yes - within a wider guideline such as breastfeeding support or postnatal care
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

12. What weight loss percentage threshold triggered a medical assessment of the baby? (by a doctor or nurse practitioner who would make a decision about blood tests and assess the need for medical treatments such as nasogastric tube). Please write a number without a percentage sign (eg if you want to enter 12.5% then enter 12.5). If there is no routine threshold then please leave blank

13. What weight loss percentage threshold triggered additional advice on feeding, for example telling the family to increase feed frequency and/or advising the mother to express milk. Please write a number without a percentage sign (eg if you want to enter 12.5% then enter 12.5). If there is no routine threshold then please leave blank
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14. If a baby needed a medical assessment (doctor/nurse practitioner) for excessive weight loss picked up by routine weighing in the community, what was your referral pathway for that medical assessment "in hours" eg 10am on a Tuesday

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Emergency Department
☐ General Practitioner (GP)
☐ Postnatal ward
☐ Neonatal unit
☐ Paediatric/Children's ward

Other: ☐ _____

15. If a baby needed a medical assessment (doctor/nurse practitioner) for excessive weight loss picked up by routine weighing in the community, what was your referral pathway for that medical assessment "out of hours" eg 5pm on a Sunday

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Emergency Department
☐ General Practitioner (GP)
☐ Postnatal ward
☐ Neonatal unit
☐ Paediatric/Children's ward

Other: ☐ _____

16. When a breastfed baby was readmitted to hospital for excessive weight loss in the first weeks of life in the usual location used for hospital admission for this indication, was there a pathway for assessment by a breastfeeding specialist professional (someone employed by the NHS trust who had received specific extra training in breastfeeding support)?

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ A professional specialising in breastfeeding support would come to the ward to assess and advise - available 7 days a week
- ☐ A professional specialising in breastfeeding support would come to the ward to assess and advise - available on certain days and not 7 days a week
- ☐ The mother could visit a specialist breastfeeding professional elsewhere in the hospital (for example a breastfeeding clinic) - available 7 days a week
- ☐ The mother could visit a specialist breastfeeding professional elsewhere in the hospital (for example a breastfeeding clinic) - available on certain days and not 7 days a week
- ☐ There was no specialist breastfeeding professional support available

17. Do you need to make any comments to explain your answers in this section?

April 1st 2020 to
September 30th 2020

This section covers your practice in the first six month period of the Covid-19 pandemic

18. In the six month period 1/4/20 to 30/9/20 how many babies (born at 34 weeks gestation or more) were assessed or treated in a hospital setting in the first three weeks of life with weight loss of 12.5% or more of their birthweight? Please give a whole number

19. In the six month period 1/4/20 to 30/9/20 how many babies (born at 34 weeks gestation or more) were assessed or treated in a hospital setting in the first three weeks of life with weight loss of 15% or more of their birthweight? Please give a whole number

20. In the six month period 1/4/20 to 30/9/20 how many babies (born at 34 weeks gestation or more) in the first three weeks of life had a plasma sodium value of 155 mmol/l or higher? Please give a whole number

21. Were there any changes to the day on which healthy, term babies are re-weighed because of the pandemic? If no change, please leave blank. If there were changes, please describe them (for example it might have been a change for all babies, or a change only for babies with Covid positive mothers)

22. Were there any changes to the weight loss percentage threshold triggering a medical assessment of the baby because of the pandemic? If no change, please leave blank. If there were changes, please describe them

23. Were there any changes to the weight loss percentage threshold triggering additional advice on feeding (for example telling the family to increase feed frequency and/or advising the mother to express milk) because of the pandemic? If no change, please leave blank. If there were changes, please describe them

24. Were there any changes to the location of where a baby would have medical assessment for excessive weight loss because of the pandemic? If no change, please leave blank. If there were changes, please describe them

25. Were there any changes to the professional breastfeeding support available to mothers of babies admitted for excessive weight loss because of the pandemic? If no change, please leave blank. If there were changes, please describe them

26. Were there any changes to the breastfeeding support available to mothers in the community in the first few weeks of life because of the pandemic? If no change, please leave blank. If there were changes, please describe them. If you don't know please state this

27. Do you need to make any comments to explain your answers in this section?

Thank
you

Thank you for your help, we understand how much work was involved in collecting your data and appreciate your involvement. We will publish results on the HIFN website and social media accounts: www.hifn.org, @HIFN12 and Hospital Infant Feeding Network on Facebook, and via academic routes

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