

bilirubin levels.

- Infant will experience no complications from therapy.
- Mother–infant dyad will achieve successful breastfeeding.
- Family will receive emotional support.
- Family will be prepared for home phototherapy (if prescribed).
- Family will receive appropriate education about neonatal jaundice.

Implementation

Numerous nursing interventions are discussed later in the chapter.

Evaluation

The effectiveness of nursing interventions for the family and infant with jaundice is determined by continual reassessment and evaluation of care based on the following guidelines:

- Observe skin color; review bilirubinometric or laboratory findings.
- Evaluate feedings and elimination pattern.
- Check placement of eye shields; observe skin for signs of dehydration; monitor infant's temperature.
- Interview family members and observe parent–infant interactions.

Part of the routine physical assessment includes observing for evidence of jaundice at regular intervals. Jaundice is most reliably assessed by observing the infant's skin color from head to toe and the color of the sclerae and mucous membranes. Applying direct pressure to the skin, especially over bony prominences (such as, the tip of the nose or the sternum), causes blanching and allows the yellow stain to be more pronounced. For dark-skinned infants, the color of the sclerae, conjunctiva, and oral mucosa is the most