

- Whether the baby has loose limbs.
- Listen to the cry of the baby.
- Provide care of eyes. If there is pus/purulent discharge from eyes and no doctor or nurse available, apply tetracycline ointment. Even for normal eyes, tetracycline is used as a preventive, so even in doubt as to whether it is pus, it could be given.
- Keep umbilical cord dry and clean.



#### **b. General precautions the family must take**

The newborn is delicate and can easily fall sick if the family and mother are not careful. You should explain some general precautions that the family should take.

- Bathing the baby: Although it is recommended that the baby should not be bathed until the first seven days, many families would like to bathe the baby on the first or second day. For a normal baby, if the family insists, the baby could be bathed after the second day. But in the case of LBW baby, you must insist on their waiting for at least seven days. You should explain that bathing the baby and leaving it wet or exposed may cause it to get cold and fall sick. Thus, it is better to wipe the baby with a warm wet cloth and dry the baby immediately.
- Keep the baby away from people who are sick.
- People who are sick with cold, cough, fever, skin infection, diarrhoea, etc. should not hold the baby or come in close contact with the baby.
- The newborn baby should not be taken to places where there are other sick children.
- The newborn baby should also not be taken to places where there are large gatherings of people.

#### **c. What are you expected to do during the newborn visits?**

- Enquire and fill the mother's information on home visit form. (**Annexe 6**)
- Enquire and fill newborn information on home visit form. These forms help you to think about all the steps you need to take. (**Annexe 7**)
- Take out the necessary equipment from the bag and keep on a clean cloth.
- Wash your hands well as taught.
- Then examine the baby – a. measure temperature, b. weigh the baby, and c. perform other activities in the sequence provided in the newborn home visit form. (**Annexe 8 & 9**)
- Provide the care of eyes, skin and cord.
- Check that the home visit form is filled in completely.