

# NEWBORN DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

#### Warmth

- O Keep baby warm at all times
- O KMC for preterm and small for gestational age babies

### Hygiene

- Wash hands before and after handling baby
- Clean and sterilize feeding tools e.g. cup and spoon, breast pump
- Ensure personal hygiene of mother and baby
- Keep the environment and linens clean
- O The first bath of a term, healthy newborn should be delayed for at least 24 hours after birth

#### Cord care

- O Keep the umbilical cord clean and dry by applying 4% chlorhexidine (7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate aqueous solution or gel) to the umbilical cord stump in the first week of life
- O Do not use other concoctions on the cord

## Feeding

- O Feed baby every 2 to 3 hours, or on demand
- Feed slowly, burp baby gently back after feeding
- O Observe baby for signs of choking
- O Exclusive breastfeeding from birth until 6 months of age

# Safety

- Keep home environment safe (small children, pets, side rails, treated mosquito nets)
- Put the baby to sleep on their back during the first year to prevent sudden infant death syndrome

### Immunize

O In line with public health immunization schedule

## DANGER SIGNS

If you see any of the following danger signs, immediately bring the baby to the nearest health care center for evaluation

- O Baby has stopped feeding well
- O History of tremors or convulsions
- O Fast breathing (above 60 breaths each minute)
- O Severe chest in-drawing
- O No spontaneous movement
- O Fever (temperature above 37.5 °C)
- O Low body temperature (temperature below 35.5 °C)
- O Offensive cord or if the cord smells
- O Jaundice (yellow discoloration) at any age of life

Schedule of Postnatal Visits: Newborns will be referred directly from the postnatal or theatre recovery ward for follow up clinic visit:

- Day 1 (24 hrs)
- Day 3 (48-72 hrs)
- 7-14 days
- 6 weeks

First newborn clinic appointment:

For questions, call:

**Video link for Warning Signs in Newborns for Mothers:** 











English Twi Ga Ewe Hausa