

Postpartum Nursing Care Pathway

Site Applicability

All VCH & PHC sites

Practice Level

For the following professions (within their respective scope of practice) with additional education:

- NP, RN
- LPN (PHC Only)

Policy Statement

VCH & PHC Health Care Professionals (HCP) will use the Perinatal Services BC (PSBC) Obstetric Guideline 20 – Postpartum Nursing Care Pathway (see guideline link below) when providing nursing care to mothers from birth to 6 weeks.

Need to Know

The Maternal Postpartum Nursing Care Pathway identifies the goals and needs of postpartum women and is the foundation for documentation on the British Columbia Postpartum Clinical Care Path (for Vaginal and Caesarean Delivery).

In this document, assessments are entered into specific periods; from immediately after birth to 7 days postpartum and beyond. These are guidelines and are used to ensure that all assessment criteria have been captured. Once the woman is in her own surroundings, assessments will be performed based on individual nursing judgment in consultation with the mother.

Practice Guideline

See PSBC Obstetrics Guideline 20 Postpartum Nursing Care Pathway:

<http://www.perinataleservicesbc.ca/Documents/Guidelines-Standards/Maternal/PostpartumNursingCarePathway.pdf>

Expected Patient/Client/Resident Outcomes

Clients will receive postpartum care that responds to the special needs of the mother and baby during this special phase and should include: the prevention, early detection and treatment of complications and disease; and the provision of advice and services on breastfeeding, birth spacing, immunization, safety, lifestyles, maternal nutrition and if the mother/parents have made an informed choice to feed breastmilk substitutes, information about the safe preparation and use of such breastmilk substitutes.

Documentation

As per the Newborn PARIS guidelines, PSBC forms and Cerner guidelines

Related Documents

- [VCH Infant Feeding Policy \(Breastfeeding\)](#)
- VCH/PHC: [Breastfeeding Healthy Term Infants](#) (BD-00-07-40006)

References

See PBSC document – pages 49-50

Developed by

Perinatal Services BC (formerly BC Perinatal Health Program) coordinated the updating of this document. It represents a consensus opinion, based on best evidence, of an interdisciplinary team of health care professionals. The team included nurses from acute care and public health nursing representing each of the Health Authorities as well as rural and urban practice areas. Clinical consultation was provided by family physicians, obstetricians, pediatricians and other clinical experts as required. See page 53 of document for complete list

VCH Developer Lead(s):

Regional Lead, Early Childhood Development, Prevention, VCH
Regional Director of Planning & Maternity/Child Services
Regional Prevention Council
Perinatal Coordinating Committee

Other Members:

VCH 0-5 PHN Leads
Perinatal Educators Committee

Endorsed by

VCH: (*Regional SharePoint 2nd Reading*)
Health Authority Profession Specific Advisory Council Chairs (HAPSAC)
Health Authority & Area Specific Interprofessional Advisory Council Chairs (HAIAC)
Operations Directors
Professional Practice Directors
PHC Maternity

Final Sign-off & Approved for Posting by

Vice President Professional Practice and Chief Clinical Information Officer, VCH
Professional Practice Standards Committee, PHC

Date of Approval/Review/Revision

Approved: January 14, 2015
Posted: January 16, 2015