6 ROUTINE POSTPARTUM CARE

6.4 THE IDENTIFICATION OF STORED EXPRESSED BREAST MILK ON THE POSTNATAL WARDS

PURPOSE

- The appropriate identification and storing of expressed breast milk (EBM) on the postnatal wards.

PROCEDURE

- All women who are expressing breast milk for their baby on the postnatal wards shall be given a supply of their patient identification labels and yellow EBM stickers to place on their bottles, red tubes or purple syringe.

- All EBM shall be labelled with the mother’s identification sticker and a yellow EBM sticker prior to being placed in the fridge.

- The identification sticker must have the date and time that the milk was expressed documented on it.

- Before storing the EBM in the fridge, midwifery staff shall confirm with the mother that the EBM is correctly labelled and matches the woman’s identification name band.

- All EBM shall be placed in the locked fridge in the milk room on each ward.

- EBM shall only be stored in the fridge for 48 hours.

- On removal from the fridge by midwifery staff, the label shall be checked and confirmed as correct by
  - two midwives and checked against the neonates identification band
  or
  - one midwife and the mother and the label checked against the mother’s identification band.

- EBM that is found to be incorrectly labelled or without a label must be discarded immediately and a clinical incident form completed.

- EBM that is identified as having been expressed more than 48 hours previously must be discarded.
REFERENCES (STANDARDS)

National Standards – 1 Clinical care is Guided by Current Best Practice
2 Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infections
3 Patient Identification and Procedure Matching

Legislation - Nil

Related Policies/ Guidelines – B 8.1.7 Expressing
B 8.1.8 Storage and Thawing of Breast Milk

Other related documents – Nil

RESPONSIBILITY

Policy Sponsor Nursing & Midwifery Director OGCCU
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