

8 NEWBORN FEEDING

8.2 BREASTFEEDING CHALLENGES

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8.2.12 Baby of a mother with diabetes
Section B
Clinical Guidelines
King Edward Memorial Hospital
Perth Western Australia

8.2.12 BABY OF A MOTHER WITH DIABETES

AIM

To maintain the infant's plasma glucose levels within normal limits following birth.

KEY POINTS

- A baby of a mother with diabetes is at high risk of developing hypoglycaemia.
- Give explanation to mother / parents of necessity to feed the baby early to avoid a hypoglycaemic episode.

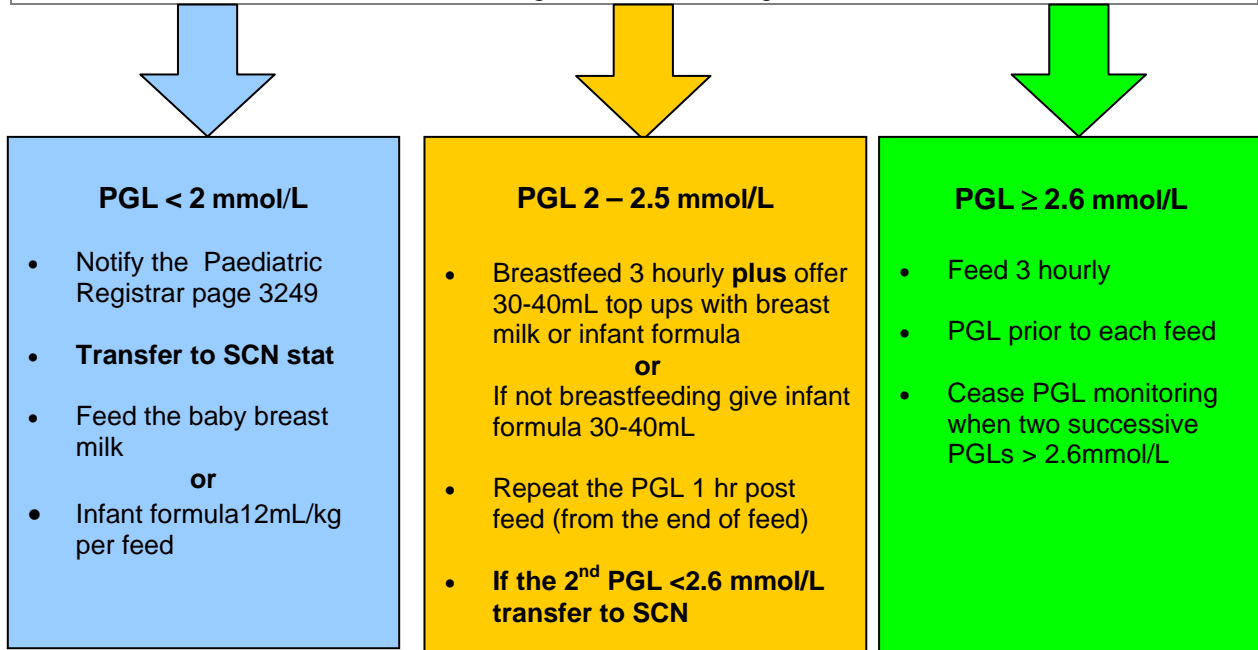
FEEDING REGIME ¹

Note: See flow chart page 2

FEEDING MANAGEMENT ON POSTNATAL WARDS FOR TERM INFANTS OF WOMEN WITH DIABETES

1. Breast feed or give 12ml/kg infant formula before 1 hour of age (WHO) ^{2,3}
2. If the mother is unable to breastfeed, or the baby is not interested in feeding, give breast milk or infant formula at 12ml/kg
3. Perform a Plasma Glucose Level* (PGL) and Temperature pre 2nd feed (within 4 hours of age) ⁴
4. Perform a PGL* prior to each subsequent feed until 2 consecutive PGLs > 2.6 mmol/L are achieved ¹

**Symptomatic infant (jittery, lethargic) page the Special Care Nursery (SCN)
Paediatric Registrar - 3249 for urgent review**



FOR SUCCESSFUL BREASTFEEDING AND TO AVOID PROLONGED HYPOGLYCAEMIA:

1. Offer the infant to the mother for skin to skin contact under warm blankets ^{2,3}
2. Offer the mother the option of, and assist with, breastfeeding in theatre ³
3. Suggest an appropriate gown for the mother going to theatre to enhance breastfeeding.
4. Offer 3 hourly breastfeeds until lactation is established as women with diabetes **may** have delayed onset of lactation. ⁵

Note: All efforts are made to avoid prolonged hypoglycaemia (PGL <2.6mmol/L). Management in SCN may include nasogastric feeding, IV glucose and/or IM glucagon.

REFERENCES:

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3. Vogel A HB, Mitchell EA., Factors associated with the duration of breastfeeding. **Acta Paediatrica** 1999;88(12):1320-6.
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5. Arthur PG KJ, Harmann PE., Metabolites of lactose synthesis in milk from diabetic and non diabetic women during lactogenesis. **Journal of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition** 1994;19:100-108.