



## VAGINAL BIRTH CLINICAL PATHWAY

### Breast/Latch Assessment Tool

Hanover   
  Owen Sound   
  Walkerton

- Guidelines:**
- a) Document feeding time of newborn.
  - b) Observe a minimum of one breastfeeding session per shift and obtain reported data from the mother for a minimum of one breastfeeding session per shift.
  - c) Score the feed in the appropriate space and document total score.
  - d) Document whether the feed was observed or reported and initial.

**Note:** If score is less than 7, the next feeding is to be observed, significant findings identified and documented below. If two subsequent scores less than 7 are obtained, ensure the mother attends in-hospital breastfeeding clinic or refer to Lactation Consultant and document.

	Date					
OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT	SCORE	FEEDING TIME				
<b>LATCH:</b>						
Mouth open wide, grasps breast, tongue over lower jaw, lips flanged, no clicking or smacking, rhythmic sucking, no indrawing or dimpling of cheeks	2					
Repeated attempts to hold nipple in mouth, stimulate to suck	1					
Too sleepy or reluctant, no latch achieved	0					
<b>AUDIBLE SWALLOWING or SUCK-PAUSE PATTERN SEEN:</b>						
Spontaneous intermittent <24 hours of age; spontaneous and frequent >24 hours of age	2					
A few with stimulation	1					
None / no attempt to open mouth	0					
<b>TYPE OF NIPPLE:</b>						
Everted (after stimulation)	2					
Flat	1					
Inverted	0					
<b>COMFORT (BREAST/NIPPLE):</b>						
Soft, tender	2					
Filling, reddened, small blister, mild-moderate discomfort	1					
Engorged, cracked, bleeding, large blisters, severe discomfort	0					
<b>HOLD:</b>						
No assist from staff, infant's head and body supported at level of breast, infant on side with nose, chin, chest, abdomen and knees touch mother, mouth across from nipple	2					
Minimal assistance (i.e. elevate head of bed; place pillow for comfort); teach one side, mother does other; staff holds, then mother takes over	1					
Mother requires full assistance to position infant at breast	0					
<b>Total Score</b>						
<b>Observed (O) or Reported (R)</b>						
<b>Initials</b>						

*Adapted from the Breast / Latch Assessment Tool, Grey Bruce Health Services - Owen Sound, 2004*



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