

## STANDARD

When providing inpatient health services for primary caregivers of infants (birth to 1 year), The Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB) acknowledges that it may be practicable for infants to stay with primary caregivers for part or all duration of the hospital admission.

These infants, though not the primary recipients of health care provided by the BOPDHB, will be admitted to hospital with their primary caregivers as “boarder babies.”

The BOPDHB will act to enable the safe care and supervision of boarder babies. This will be the responsibility of primary caregivers, or nominated support persons when primary caregivers do not have the capacity to provide safe care and supervision of boarder babies.

## OBJECTIVE

Attachment between parents / caregivers and their infants is an innate, interdependent, behavioural connection marked by familiarity and close proximity within a responsive, nurturing, human relationship. This relationship may be disrupted when a primary caregiver is hospitalised for their own health care and caregiver / infant separation supervenes.

The BOPDHB will act to minimise this disruption, support caregiver / infant attachment and enable a secure environment for the provision of safe and protective care of boarder babies. This will include supporting:

- primary caregiver health status and capacity
- the continuation of breastfeeding
- safe infant feeding
- safe infant sleeping
- supervision of boarder babies by the primary caregiver or a nominated support person at all times
- management and reporting of concerns of family violence, child abuse and neglect

## EQUIPMENT

During hospital admission, the BOPDHB will be responsible for enabling access to:

- breast pumps and other equipment that supports the continuation of breastfeeding
- safe storage for expressed breast milk and reconstituted infant formula
- sterilising equipment and a suitable space for the preparation of infant formula
- Baby Feeding Record for boarder babies from birth to 6 months of age
- safe sleep space with bedding – bassinette, Pēpi-Pod® or cot according to infants age and developmental stage

## STANDARDS TO BE MET

STEP	ACTION	RATIONALE
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An infant (birth to 1 year) who stays with their primary caregiver during hospital admission will be co-admitted as a boarder baby.</li> <li>• Boarder babies will wear a hospital identification band.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital occupancy and patient acuity is validated.</li> </ul>

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STEP	ACTION	RATIONALE
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the postnatal period (from birth to 6 weeks), the Lead Maternity Carer (LMC) will be informed of the hospital admission.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate a continuum of scheduled LMC services during hospital admission</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If required, a Baby Feeding Record will be available for use by primary caregivers and / or nominated support persons caring for boarder babies aged from birth to 6 months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise feeding disruption and track feeding status when care is provided by multiple persons</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mothers of all breastfed boarder babies will be offered access to BOPDHB Lactation Consultant Services for breastfeeding support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the continuation of breastfeeding and well health status of mother and infant</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe sterilisation, preparation and storage facilities will be provided for expressed breast milk and reconstitution of infant formula.</li> <li>For artificially fed boarder babies, staff will promote safe artificial feeding practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support safe infant feeding, prevent contamination and infection, and promote parent/caregiver safe infant feeding practices.</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All boarder babies will be provided with a safe sleep space and bedding that is suitable for their age and developmental stage.</li> <li>BOPDHB staff will inform primary caregivers and their support persons about safe infant sleeping and SUDI prevention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support safe infant sleeping in the hospital setting, and generate parent/caregiver safe sleep awareness for the protection of babies.</li> <li>Primary caregivers have a right to know how to avoid hazards to infants in their sleeping environments.</li> <li>Every contact primary caregivers have with a health professional is an opportunity for them to gain health literacy about safe infant sleeping, SUDI prevention.</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BOPDHB staff will identify, document and report any family violence and infant and child care and protection issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislated positive duty by staff members of any hospital</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BOPDHB staff will coordinate referrals for any health and social needs of boarder babies and/or their parent/giver as part of the care plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support optimum parent/caregiver and infant social and health outcomes through opportunistic, joined-up health care</li> </ul>

## REFERENCES

- Maternity Services, Section 88 of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000
- Crimes Act 2011, s.195A
- [Bay of Plenty Integrated Healthcare Strategy, 2014 - 2020](#)

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 <p><b>BAY OF PLENTY</b> DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD HAUORA A TOI</p> <p><b>SAFETY OF CHILDREN PROTOCOL</b></p>	<p><b>BOARDER BABIES</b></p>	<p><b>Policy 1.6.1 Protocol 2</b></p>
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### ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.6.1 Safety of Children
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.6.1 protocol 1 Safe Infant (birth to 1 year) Sleeping
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.6.3 Child Protection, Violence, Abuse and Neglect – Management and Reporting
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.6.3 protocol 1 Child Protection, Violence, Abuse and Neglect – Management and Reporting Standards
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.6.3 protocol 0 Violence, Abuse and Neglect – Management and Reporting Standards
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.5.1 Security
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.5.1 protocol 1 Security – Abduction of Baby / Child Receiving Treatment – Responsibilities and Management of Risk
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Maternity service protocol MAT.B3.2 Breastfeeding
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Maternity service protocol MAT.B3.1 Artificial Feeding
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Maternity service protocol MAT.B12.1 Late Pre-term
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board SCBU service protocol SCBU.A4.1 Admission of Babies from Home
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 2.1.1 Risk Management
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 7.104.1 Care Delivery – Nursing and Midwifery
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 7.104.1 protocol 1 Care Delivery – Team Nursing Guidelines
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 7.104.1 protocol 4 Care Delivery – Nursing / Midwifery Plan of Care
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 7.104.1 protocol 10 Care Delivery – Inter-Department / Ward Communication
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Infection Control protocol IC.H1.0 Hand Hygiene
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Form Baby Feeding Record (8161) – *viewable only. Order through Design & Print Centre*

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