

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**SUBJECT:** NEWBORN EXAMINATION & CARE**POLICY NO.** 325

PURPOSE:: To provide a comprehensive plan for newborn examination and care to all DHS hospitals.**POLICY::** To ensure that newborns of DHS health facilities receive a uniform standard of care, each hospital shall adopt the following policy:

1. All newborns shall be delivered with accessibility to at least one staff person, who at a minimum, has successfully completed a course in infant resuscitation.
2. Adequate resuscitation equipment (as defined by AAP) shall be immediately available for newborns in the delivery room.
3. There shall be a minimum of two staff present (with a minimum of one staff member having successfully completed a course in infant resuscitation) for all high-risk deliveries.
4. Each newborn shall be initially assessed immediately after delivery. This assessment will include Apgar scores at one and five minutes, birth weight and examination for gross congenital anomalies.
5. A complete assessment of a newborn shall be done by a qualified professional as soon after delivery as possible, covering the elements (including imperforate anus) contained in POPRAS 12 [attached]. Each facility will have written procedures for completing the necessary exams.
6. First passage of stool and urine shall be noted prior to discharge.
7. Ana patency will be assured by either examination, passing of a pediatric NG tube, or a rectal temperature.
8. All newborns shall be maintained under skilled observation until a complete history and physical are performed.
9. The standard genetic screens shall be performed as mandated by law.
10. The administration of Vitamin K will be performed as required by law.
11. Eye care will be provided in accordance with State law.
12. Standard test for syphilis will be performed on mother at delivery and on cord blood (where indicated).
13. Hepatitis B surface antigen testing shall be done at the time of the first prenatal visit. If the mother's status is unknown at the time of delivery, a high risk maternal screen will be performed (as detailed in Public Health Letter Vol. 10, No. 3, March 1988). Those babies of high risk mothers will receive Hepatitis B immune globulin and vaccine within the first 24 hours.

14. All procedures will be in accordance with California State Law and JCAHO.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Sep 01, 1992

SUPERCEDES: 09/30/1991

APPROVED: Signature on File
