

**VALLEYCARE**  
**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS**  
**INPATIENT OBSTETRICS**  
**POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 4770**  
**VERSION: 2**

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** NEWBORN FEEDING PROTOCOL

**MD ORDER:** YES [ X ] NO [ ]

**POLICY:** All newborns in the Normal Newborn Nursery will be assessed by an RN prior to the initial feeding.

**Infants who are breast-fed, bottle-fed, finger-fed, cup or spoon fed, or gavaged will be stable before and after feedings.**

**PURPOSE:** To establish criteria for assessing the stability of a newborn prior to feeding.

**DEPARTMENTS:** Medicine, Nursing 3D- PostPartum/Nursery

**DEFINITIONS:**  
**PROCEDURE:**

**CARE DIRECTIVES**

**ASSESSMENT:**

1. Nurses need to assess the newborn's ability to tolerate feedings.
2. Vital signs need to be assessed prior to the initial feeding.
3. Feedings will be given with the following vital signs:  
Heart Rate:  $\leq 160$  or  $\geq 100$   
Respirations:  $\leq 60$  or  $\geq 30$ , or with no signs of respiratory distress.

**INTERVENTION:**

1. Feedings will be withheld with the following vital signs:  
Heart Rate:  $> 160$  or  $< 100$   
Respirations:  $> 60$  or  $< 30$ , or with signs of respiratory distress.
2. Physician will be notified.

**EVALUATION:**

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** NEWBORN FEEDING PROTOCOL  
**Policy Number:** 4770  
**Page Number:** 2

1. If feedings are tolerated, continue as ordered.
2. If feedings are not tolerated, discontinue and inform physician.

**EDUCATION:**

Parents will be informed and educated in the different feeding methods, including the signs and symptoms of an infant not tolerating feedings.

**DOCUMENTATION:**

Documentation will be charted on the # 9 (Newborn Flow) and the Progress Notes.

**BREASTFEEDING:**

1. Instruct and assist with proper breastfeeding techniques (positioning and latch-on).
2. To breastfeed on demand (at least 8 times per 24 hours).
3. Refer to Breastfeeding Policy.

**NON-BREASTFEEDING:**

1. Need a physician's order or need to obtain written consent from the mother before giving formula.
2. Instruct mother on proper bottle-feeding techniques.
3. Hand feed each infant. (No propping of bottles).
4. Give 20 cal. formulas every two (2) to three (3) hours.
5. Normal intake at each feeding:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> 24 hours: 5 – 15 ml
  - b. 24 – 48 hours: up to 30 ml
  - c. 48 – 72 hours: up to 45 ml
  - d. >72 hours: ad lib
6. If difficulty is experienced with the regular Nuk nipple, use premie nipple.

References:	
Approved by: Marci Hamilton (Clinical Nurse Director)	Date: 03/20/2013
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