

Section: Division of Nursing

* **PROCEDURE** *

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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Originator: H. Gaffigan, RN

L. Woolford, RN

Revised by: T. Davis RN

C. Burns BSN, RNC

NEWBORN SERVICES

(Scope)

TITLE: PROCEDURE TO WEIGH NEWBORNS

PURPOSE: To ensure accurate assessment of newborn's weight.

SUPPORTIVE DATA:

1. All newborns are weighed after birth as a part of the newborn's admission assessment. This may be accomplished in LDR or nursery as appropriate.
2. This assessment provides a basis for further care and treatment of the newborn. Newborns with an admission weight less than or equal to 2500gms or greater than or equal to 4000gms will be monitored according to the accucheck protocol.
3. Newborns are subsequently weighed at 0600 daily.
4. Newborn weight data is collected as part of the perinatal data base used for statistical analysis by hospital, regional and state agencies. The gram weight is the preferred measurement unit for this purpose.

EQUIPMENT:

1. Electronic infant scale
2. Clean scale paper - 1 sheet

CONTENT:

PROCEDURE STEPS:

KEY POINTS:

1. Wash hands

If baby has not been bathed, gloves must be worn. Other times, gloves are optional.

2. Place 1 sheet scale paper on scale basket.

Always use 1 sheet clean scale paper for each newborn.

3. Zero the scale by pressing the "on/zero" button on the LCD display.

Wait for scale to automatically go to zero after pressing set button.

4. Place nude newborn on scale in center of basket. Do not allow infant to grip sides of basket.

Protect from falling by keeping hand near at all times.

5. Allow electronics to take "reading". The correct weight on the LCD read out shows "HLD" blinking at right of readout.

6. If this is the newborn's admission birth weight, measurements, prompt family member(s) to take picture now.

Involves family members and provides memento

DOCUMENT:

1. Admission newborn weight to be documented in CPN, Newborn Physical, Initial Newborn Screening Report (gram weight; PKU), and computerized documentation system.
2. Subsequent weight measurements to be recorded in computer system.
3. Discharge weight is recorded in computer system, on Newborn Physical sheet, and Newborn Final Progress Note and Discharge Plan.
4. Primary care provider to be notified if newborn is greater than 4000gms or less than 2500 grams, or if there is a ten percent weight loss or gain prior to discharge.

REFERENCE: Simpson, Kathleen Rice and Creeham Patricia A. AWHONN'S Perinatal Nursing 2001 AWHONN page 513-514. Lipponcott/Philadelphia/NY.