

SHARED DECISION-MAKING

DETERMINING A NEED FOR INFANT SEPARATION

The CDC currently recommends that the determination on whether or not to separate a new baby from their parent should be made on a case-by-case basis as a shared decision between the parent and the clinical healthcare team. Many factors must be considered in making this decision to evaluate the short and long-term impacts. These points are intended to be the start of the discussion in no particular order of importance or sequence.

1 The feeding choice of the parent

For parents who are choosing and able to feed their baby at the breast, separation may negatively impact the early development of this feeding relationship

2 Current conditions and health of the parent and baby

As with all postpartum care, the health of the parent and baby must be evaluated to ensure both are stable enough to safely maintain rooming-in

3 Anticipated prognosis of both parent and baby

If long-term separation is expected, the risks of short-term rooming in should be weighed with the benefits

4 Pump usage

If a pump is going to be used in place of feeding at the breast, the consistent ability to wash and sanitize parts and safely store and transport milk must be considered along with the ability to continue pumping and sanitizing at home

5 Feeding alternatives

If the use of breastmilk alternatives are planned, they must be readily available and safely accessed indefinitely

6 Length of potential separation

In the event of typical anticipated hospital discharge with no plans or ability to separate at home, separation may have unnecessary long-term impact

7 Facility resources to maintain separation

In the event of separation, infant monitoring must be safely maintained by facility staff

8 Potential for contamination while separated

In the event of separation, both the location of the baby and the transport should be safe from contamination

9 Long-term care

If separation is necessary, care for the baby upon discharge must be available and appropriate

RESOURCES

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/inpatient-obstetric-healthcare-guidance.html>

2. <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/pdf/10.1089/bfm.2020.29153.ams>

3. https://uslca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Updated-Guidelines-for-Healthcare-Facility-Management-of-Perinatal-Care-of-Persons-with-COVID-19-or-Suspected-COVID-19_.pdf

