

# Six Week Assessment

This component links to:

- Newborn Baby Vision and Eye
- all components of Section Four.

## Age(s) of child

6 weeks - linked to 6 week immunisation event.

## Purpose

- To reassure parents through health surveillance and clinical assessment that their child is developing normally, and if necessary ensure any health or developmental concerns are referred appropriately, and addressed in a timely way
- To ensure breastfeeding or appropriate form of infant feeding is established
- To promote positive parenting skills and attachment
- To work with families/whānau to identify their needs for support, and either provide this or facilitate access to support from other health or community services, especially for those children of families/whānau at risk of adverse outcomes
- To confirm enrolment with both a Well Child Provider and a General Practice Team

## Personnel

The General Practice Team provides this assessment.

## Recommended procedure

- Gain informed consent of parents/caregivers
- Provide care in a culturally appropriate manner
- Listen attentively and communicate effectively with parents/caregivers
- Undertake systematic and thorough clinical assessment which includes: colour – including prolonged jaundice, cardiac assessment, length – using a consistent measuring tool, respiratory assessment, weight, nutrition – feeding history, head circumference, fontanelles, hip joints (see ‘Hip screening’ component), eyes – red reflex (see ‘Newborn baby vision and eye’ component), ears (see ‘Newborn baby hearing’ component), neuro developmental assessment, abdominal assessment, genital assessment
- Record family history and obstetric history including:
  - hepatitis B, tuberculosis, other infective illness in particular *in utero* illness
  - congenital renal, cardiac, hearing or hip pathology
  - assessment of psycho-social and environmental risk factors including support systems, history of postnatal depression, family violence, Child Youth & Family involvement

- Assess parent-child interaction – early bonding, initial (positive) parenting response and parenting skills
- Assess support needs
- Discuss significance of findings with parents/caregivers
- Provide relevant information and anticipatory guidance to parents/caregivers including:
  - recognising a sick child and when to seek medical help
  - recognising postpartum abnormalities for mother including postnatal depression
  - enrolment with a well child provider and general practice team
  - check Metabolic Screen has been completed
- Provide community linkages
- Promote positive parenting
- Document findings fully and accurately including in the *Well Child-Tamariki Ora Health Book*
- Use appropriate referral pathways.

### **Educational preparation needs to include:**

- the normal infant, and normal variation re:
  - anatomy
  - physiology
  - development
  - nutrition including sound breastfeeding knowledge
- common infant pathology
- rare but important infant pathology
- infant assessment techniques
- attachment theory
- referral pathways for hip, renal, cardiac, respiratory, eye and hearing problems
- response to history of hepatitis B and tuberculosis
- primary prevention including vitamin K usage, immunisation
- documenting procedures.

## **Resources**

Stethoscope, ophthalmoscope, tape measure, scales, otoscope.

## **Referral pathway**

Appropriate referral of problems identified, with appropriate documentation. Specialist breastfeeding advice may be sought from a lactation consultant or midwife with additional expertise in breastfeeding.

## **Rationale**

The screening component of this task is uncertain (on standard criteria) and it is probably of most value for its surveillance potential.

While no clear competencies have been determined for carrying out this assessment, current practice demonstrates positive outcomes. Most abnormalities would be picked up through routine inspection without a rigorous screening programme. The validity of this assessment as a screening test has yet to be determined other than for hip and cardiac screening. This assessment provides the final opportunity for detection of previously undiagnosed congenital abnormalities.