



Crying and Colic in the Breastfed Baby Clinical Practice Tool

Maternal Assessment

History:

- Knowledge of normal infant crying behaviour
- Knowledge of normal breastfeeding behaviours
- Tobacco usage
- Medications
- Maternal allergies

Observations:

- Breastfeeding latch and position
- Feeding history: Time required to complete feeding _____
- Offer one or both breasts at each feed _____
- If baby unlatches as the “let down” happens, milk may spray from the nipple
- Milk may leak from the other breast as you breastfeed
- Milk may be very easy to express
- Recurrent plugged ducts and mastitis

Infant Assessment

Observation and Assessment:

- Fussy while feeding, this can be described as baby pulling away while feeding, arching back or going on and off while feeding
- Gulping at the breast
- Cries more than three hours a day
- The cries are inconsolable
- Vomits/regurgitates after most feeds
- Fusses while feeding and often is sputtering and having difficulty keeping up with the let-down
- Gaining weight rapidly
- Several bowel movements per day which can be very loose and “green”
- Fussing when in positions that sit baby forward, push legs up against tummy or on back
- Salivating
- Congested or rumbly breathing
- Pulling off the breast because feeding appears to cause pain

Assessment	For Client	For Public Health Nurse Review
Blue	Crying and Colic Teaching Sheet	Protocol No. 11
Burgundy and Blue	Overabundant Breast Milk Supply/Forceful Letdown Teaching Sheet	Protocol No. 13
Blue and Black	Infant Reflux Teaching Sheet	BAMS page 287-290

References:

The Toronto Breastfeeding Protocols for Health Care Providers (2013). Retrieved from http://www1.toronto.ca/City%20of%20Toronto/Toronto%20Public%20Health/Health%20Professionals/Breastfeeding/PDF/BFP-Protocols-1-21_Manual_eng_2013_aoda.pdf

Wissinger, D. West, D. Pitman, T. (2010) *Womanly Art of Breastfeeding*. New York: Ballantine Books

Mohrbacher, N. (2010) Nipple Pain and Other Issues. *Breastfeeding Answers Made Simple* (654) Amarillo: Hale Publishing