

### USING THE TOOL:

1	Ensure the infant meets the criteria listed below
2	Observe breastfeeds (minimum of once per shift)
3	Document feed score in the patient's fluid balance sheet
4	Continue to use Breastfeeding Assessment Tool +/- Expressing Assessment Tool as needed
5	Weigh infant: expect <b>positive</b> weight gain initially and then achieving expected weight gain for age/weight/length

### Criteria for infants readiness to start/continue this guide

1	Medical team has approved the infants readiness to oral feed
2	The infant is assessed by the nurse before every feed to ensure they are stable to feed
3	The infant is demonstrating feeding cues

### Resources for the Breastfeeding Parent

HSE booklet 'Breastfeeding – a good start in life'

Video links

**'Is your baby getting enough milk?'**

<https://globalhealthmedia.org/videos/is-your-baby-getting-enough-milk/?portfolioID=5623>

**'Attaching your baby to the breast'**

<https://globalhealthmedia.org/videos/attaching-your-baby-at-the-breast/?portfolioID=5623>

Breastfeeding assessment tool 'Parents' version'

## Transition from Tube Feeding to Breastfeeding Guide

Score	Infant Behaviour Observed at the Breast	Feed Volume	Advice for parent
<b>A</b>	Offered the breast Not showing feeding cues, sleepy	Full top up (EBM if available)	Offers non-nutritive sucking at her breast Continues skin to skin contact during the tube feed Continues to express to maintain a full milk supply
<b>B</b>	Interested in breastfeeding e.g. licking, mouth opening, nuzzling, head turning But does not latch	As above	As above
<b>C</b>	Latched onto the breast But comes on and off or falls off the breast or falls asleep within a few minutes of latching on	As above	As above
<b>D</b>	Latched and started to suck and swallow but had one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shallow sucking or short sucking bursts (&gt; 2 sucks/second)</li> <li>• Long pauses between suck / swallow bursts</li> <li>• Uncoordinated with breathing and swallowing</li> </ul>	Half top up (EBM if available)	Offers non-nutritive sucking at her breast Continues skin to skin contact during the tube feed Continues to express as needed while baby's breastfeeding skills are improving
<b>E</b>	Latched well with long slow rhythmical sucking and swallowing (1 suck/ second) Feed length <10mins Breasts not softened following feed	No top up if mother is available for the next feed Half top up (EBM if available) if mother not available for the next feed If the infant has 2 consecutive 'E' scores - give half top up	As above
<b>F</b>	Latched well with long slow rhythmical sucking and swallowing Feed length >10mins Breasts feel soft following feed	No top up	Offers the 2nd breast