

PROBLEM SOLVING: COMMON INFANT ISSUES

**LEVEL 3** HANDOUT: COMMON INFANT ISSUES SUMMARY

Infant Problem	Causes	Areas of Assessment	Questions to Ask	Tips/Solutions	When to Refer
<b>Latch Difficulties</b>	<i>See Level 2</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Baby's latch</li> <li>▪ Mom's breastfeeding goals and experience</li> <li>▪ Breastfeeding knowledge</li> <li>▪ Potential complications</li> <li>▪ Baby's weight patterns and output</li> <li>▪ Supplementation with formula</li> <li>▪ Advice from the baby's HCP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How are you feeding your baby while you work on latch?</li> <li>▪ What other foods does your baby receive? How often and how much?</li> <li>▪ How have your baby's wet and dirty diapers changed?</li> <li>▪ How do you feel about your milk production?</li> <li>▪ What has your baby's HCP told you about your baby's weight?</li> <li>▪ Who else is providing breastfeeding information to you about your baby?</li> <li>▪ What are your breastfeeding goals?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assess mom's milk production, baby's intake, and supplementation practices.</li> <li>▪ If HCP recommends formula supplementation, help mom consider it as a temporary tool until latch and milk production issues are resolved.</li> <li>▪ If the baby needs formula, counsel the mom about returning to full breastfeeding if desired.</li> <li>▪ Tailor food package to assure mom provides sufficient milk for the baby.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to DBE if:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic suggestions for improving latch do not resolve the issues.</li> <li>• Mom wants to transition back to full breastfeeding.</li> <li>• Mom wants to rebuild her milk production.</li> <li>• Mom reports unresolved sore nipples or engorgement as a result of poor latch.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Refer to baby's HCP if latch issues put baby at risk for slow or faltered growth.</li> <li>▪ Refer to peer counselor for ongoing mom-to-mom support.</li> </ul>
<b>Slow Weight Gain</b>	<i>See Level 2</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Weight trends</li> <li>▪ Mom's concerns about baby's weight</li> <li>▪ Baby's feeding history (feeding routines, environmental factors, early practices, early days at home)</li> <li>▪ Maternal medications or reported breast abnormalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tell me more about how the feedings are going.</li> <li>▪ How do your breasts feel before and after feedings?</li> <li>▪ Does your baby act hungry? If so, how do you know?</li> <li>▪ How long do feedings last?</li> <li>▪ What else do you feed your baby? How often and how much?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tailor food package to ensure baby receives adequate nutrition while protecting milk production.</li> <li>▪ If supplements are needed, suggest mom's expressed milk first.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to baby's HCP if baby is at risk for slow or faltered growth.</li> <li>▪ Refer to the DBE for further assistance as needed.</li> <li>▪ Refer to peer counselor for ongoing follow-up support.</li> </ul>

Infant Problem	Causes	Areas of Assessment	Questions to Ask	Tips/Solutions	When to Refer
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Medical conditions or recent illness</li> <li>▪ HCP advice</li> <li>▪ Mom's breastfeeding goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What health concerns do you have about you or the baby?</li> <li>▪ What does your baby's HCP say about your baby's weight?</li> <li>▪ What has your HCP said about medications you are taking while breastfeeding?</li> </ul>		