WHO recommendation on bathing and other immediate postnatal care of the newborn

17 February 2018

Recommendation

Bathing should be delayed until 24 hours after birth. If this is not possible due to cultural reasons, bathing should be delayed for at least six hours. Appropriate clothing of the baby for ambient temperature is recommended. This means one to two layers of clothes more than adults, and use of hats/caps. The mother and baby should not be separated and should stay in the same room 24 hours a day.

(Recommended)

Publication history

First published: December 2012

Updated: No update planned

Assessed as up-to-date: September 2012

Remarks

- This recommendation has been integrated from the WHO recommendations on postnatal care of the mother and newborn, in which the GDG for that guideline determined it to be a strong situational recommendation based on GDG consensus.
- No further remarks were noted.
- The evidence supporting this recommendation can be found in the source guideline document, available at:  http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/97603/1/9789241506649_eng.pdf

Related links

WHO recommendations on intrapartum care for a positive childbirth experience

(2018) - full document and evidence tables