Standard operating procedure (SOP) · OBS-SOP-004 · Version 1.0 · Approved by the ASF Expert Committee

Supports: 12.6

At a glance

- Each mother and baby have postnatal checks on a set schedule (OBS-FRM-005).
- Checks cover bleeding, infection, feeding, pain and mental health.
- A follow-up visit is booked before discharge.
- A woman who reports low mood is referred the same week.
- Stop and get help straight away if: a mother is discharged with no postnatal check or no follow-up booked.

1. Purpose

To check mother and baby in the first days after birth, when risk is high (12.6).

2. Scope

Applies to	Clinical and support staff in the hospital
Locations	All wards, clinics and departments of the facility
When	Whenever the activity described is carried out
Does not apply to	Activities covered by another document listed in section 15

3. Definitions

Term	Meaning
Clinical lead	The doctor or nurse in charge of the area at the time

4. Background

The first days after birth carry risk for both mother and baby. Checks for bleeding, infection and the baby's feeding and breathing, done on a schedule, catch the problems early.

5. Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility	Competence
Midwife in charge	Owns the schedule	Midwife
Midwife	Runs the checks and records them	Midwife

6. Materials and equipment

Item	Requirement	Condition
Records and forms named in this document	Current version	Checked before use

7. Safety

- Stop and call for help if a patient is at immediate risk. Do not delay urgent care to complete paperwork.

8. Before you start

- Confirm the forms and equipment named in this document are available and current.

9. Procedure

Step 1. Check.

- Check bleeding, infection, feeding and mental health on the schedule, and record on OBS-FRM-005.

Key point: On schedule.

Step 2. Book.

- Book the follow-up visit before discharge.

Key point: Before discharge.

Step 3. Refer.

- Refer a woman with low mood the same week to mental health support.

Key point: Same week.

10. Decision points

- No decision points in this procedure.

11. Special situations

Situation	Action
Out of hours	Follow the same steps. Use the on-call contact on the wall of the area.

12. Escalation

- Any serious problem goes to the duty clinical lead at once and to the clinical director the same day.

13. Monitoring

Measure	Target	Frequency	Owner	If not met
Discharges with a follow-up booked	100%	Monthly	Midwife in charge	Escalate to medical director

14. Records

Record	Kept in	Retention
Record named in this document	Patient record or the area file	the period set by the facility’s records policy years

15. Training

- Staff are trained in this document at induction and refreshed each year, with a recorded competency check.

16. Related documents

ID	Title	Use
OBS-FRM-005	Postnatal check record	Record

17. Evidence

Reference	Note
E-009	Based on the WHO recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience (2016) and the WHO Standards for improving quality of maternal and newborn care in health facilities (2016).
E-006	ASF Policy Framework v1.2. Adapted.
E-009	ASF Expert Committee consensus.

18. Change history

Version	Date	What changed	Approval
1.0	the date of approval	First version	set Expert Committee approval

E-learning for this document

- **Care & Treatment: Clinical Standards for Accreditation** (H-04)
- **Patient Identification, Informed Consent and Patient Rights** (T-07)

References

- Accréditation Sans Frontières (2026). ASF Policy Framework v1.2. (E-006)
- Accréditation Sans Frontières (2026). ASF Expert Committee consensus on Standard 1. (E-009)

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