Breastfeeding (BF) Algorithm Tool

Exclusively breastfed infant with ≥ 8% weight loss from birth weight

Other morbidities identified (e.g., hypoglycemia)?

Pediatrician, primary nurse, and lactation consultant develop individualized feeding plan and post-discharge f/u to support optimal milk intake and breast stimulation

Review BF frequency, infant output, observe BF, and modify BF technique as needed

BF effective and output within normal limits?

Yes

Instruct mother to hand express/pump colostrum and complement BF via spoon/syringe

Refer to lactation consultant for assessment at earliest available time

No

Instruct mother to hand express/pump colostrum and complement BF via spoon/syringe

No

Other morbidities identified (e.g., hypoglycemia)?

Pediatrician, primary nurse, and lactation consultant develop individualized feeding plan and post-discharge f/u to support optimal milk intake and breast stimulation

Yes

Continue to monitor infant’s BF behavior and output

Yes

Continued to monitor infant’s BF behavior and output

• This tool ensures consistency in the plan of care for exclusively breastfed infants who lose 8% or more of their birth weight in the first few days post birth.
• Communication about where the infants are in the process should be noted in the patient’s record for all care providers to see.