

Guidelines for Identifying High Risk and What to Do

Guidelines for identifying a high-risk baby :

Any baby with one of the following:

- Birth weight less than 2000 gms
- Preterm (gestation 8 months 14 days or less)
- Baby not taking feeds on the first day

What to do if the baby is high risk:

- ✓ Increase the number of home visits after delivery to total 13; Days 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 28 in the first month and a visit on 42nd day. (Use Supplementary Form 3 : Home Visit Form : High Risk Babies)
- ✓ Weigh babies on day 7, 15, 21, 28 and 42.
- ✓ Give to the family the 'High-Risk Babies' information sheet and explain extra care needed.
- ✓ Provide specific care as per the problem but, in general, keep baby warm (warm bag, hat, clothes) and breastfeed more often, every two hours.
- ✓ For poor breastfeeding, observe the breastfeed. Ensure proper latch-on and positioning. Encourage the mother that she can feed the baby well. Discourage giving other liquids or feeds.
- ✓ Review and discuss high-risk handout with parents.
- ✓ If on Day 28 weight is less than 2,300 grams or weight gain in 28 days is less than 300 grams, then the ASHA will continue to visit once a week in the 2nd month and take the weight each week. (Babies who weigh less than 2,300 grams on Day 28 have a higher risk of dying.)
- ✓ Fill another Home Visit Form in the 2nd month. Visit on days 35, 42, 49, and 56. If the baby is not high risk in second month then ASHA should visit the baby on 42nd day, as per the routine.

If the ASHA is not present at the time of delivery, and her first home visit is delayed, then the newborn is to be weighed on the day of her first visit. In such cases, using the following table, determine whether the baby is high risk or not :

Day on which baby is weighed for the first time	Weight of baby	Diagnosis
1 to 14 days	Less than 2kg	High-risk baby
15 to 21 days	Less than 2 kg 100 grams	High-risk baby
22 to 27 days	Less than 2 kg 200 grams	High-risk baby
28 th day	Less than 2 kg 300 grams	High-risk baby