

SUPPORTING BREASTFEEDING TO REDUCE NEWBORN READMISSIONS FOR HYPERBILIRUBINEMIA

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Hyperbilirubinemia is the most common reason for hospital readmission of term and late preterm newborns, and remains a concern for both families and health care providers (Alkalay, Bresee, & Simmons, 2010). Nearly 60 percent of all newborns become jaundiced, and those with feeding difficulties are among the population of infants who must be closely monitored for the development of hyperbilirubinemia requiring readmission to the hospital (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2011). The risk of readmission and complications from jaundice is highest among breastfed infants of first-time mothers and those that are exclusively breastfed (Cohen, 2006; Salas et al., 2009).

Abstract: Lack of breastfeeding support can result in inadequate feedings at the breast, putting newborns at risk for hyperbilirubinemia, severe jaundice and possible hospital readmission. Nurses can help prevent readmissions for hyperbilirubinemia by becoming educated about the risk factors for hyperbilirubinemia and by implementing preventive measures through improved breastfeeding support. DOI: 10.1111/1751-486X.12078

Keywords: breastfeeding | hyperbilirubinemia | jaundice | lactation support | newborn | readmission

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