



The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative in Ireland is a project of the Irish National Health Promoting Hospitals Network

Thank you for indicating your interest in participating in the Breastfeeding Supportive Paediatric Unit Project.

The first stage is to review the current practices in your hospital. To assist you to do this, complete the enclosed Self-Appraisal Documents. Then, discuss your finding with your hospital lactation team/ breastfeeding committee or other appropriate colleagues and decide if areas need some changes. Decide which area(s) you wish to address first. You are not required to address them all immediately.

List at least one area you have chosen to address in the next twelve months with your goals and action plans. For example, you may decide to concentrate on providing breastfeeding information. Your goal may be that all parents of newly admitted infants will be informed of the importance of breastfeeding and given information on basic breastfeeding management. Aim to make your goal specific and measurable, for example, that you will audit on a particular date, the number of parents given this information by a simple questionnaire to the mothers. Outline the steps you will take to reach your goal. Keep a copy of your Self-Appraisal forms and your action plans.

Return the completed self-appraisal forms plus your list of action area(s) and goals for the next twelve months and action plan. When you have done this you can apply for *Membership of the Breastfeeding Supportive Paediatric Unit Project*.

At this point, you may chose

- to work on your action plans yourself;
- to request an informal visit from an assessor to help you develop your plans and activities;
- to proceed directly to full external assessment.

Once you have returned your completed forms and are a *Member* of the project, you will receive regular information on supporting breastfeeding and are encouraged to network with other hospitals working on similar action areas to share ideas. At the end of twelve months, you will be asked to report on your achievements and progress towards your goals.

If you need more information at any stage, please contact Genevieve Becker, BFHI Co-ordinator, HPH Network, c/o James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, or bfhi@iol.ie Thank you.

Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative in Ireland
Breastfeeding Supportive Paediatric Unit (BSPU) Project

Application for Membership

This hospital/paediatric unit wishes to participate in the Breastfeeding Supportive Paediatric Unit Project. We enclose :

- the completed Self-Appraisal form and
- an action plan for least one item needed to raise standards in the area specified or to achieve all Steps.

We agree to work on at least one project related to breastfeeding each year. The action plan for that item will be submitted to the BFHI National Co-ordinator.

We agree to provide a yearly report on action plans and achievements in progress towards supportive breastfeeding practices.

We agree that to assist networking between hospitals, the name of the breastfeeding contact person and a brief description of the areas of activity in the hospital may be shared with other hospitals in the Initiative.

- This hospital/paediatric unit plans to work on the action points outlined as a *Member of the Breastfeeding Supportive Paediatric Unit Project* and will proceed to the next stage at a later time.

OR

- This hospital/paediatric unit wishes to proceed to the next stage of *Certificate of Commitment to Paediatric Breastfeeding Support* and requests an informal site visit by an assessor to discuss practices and advise on progress towards reaching the criteria. We agree to pay the cost of this site visit (€350 at this time, one day visit and a report)

OR

- This hospital/paediatric unit meets the high standards of the criteria. We request a full external assessment for the *Breastfeeding Supportive Paediatric Unit Award*. We agree to pay the cost of this assessment (to be finalised - approximately € 1500)

Further information on site visits/assessment procedures will be sent if these options are chosen.

Support for the project from all services providing care for mothers and babies is requested.

Signed,

Hospital Administrator

Director of Nursing

Representative of Paediatric Medical Staff

Hospital Contact Person for the BSPU project:

Return forms to:

BFHI Co-ordinator, Irish National HPH Network, c/o James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.