**This document should be used as recommended by the HIPS Unborn baby protocol and in other appropriate situations as identified by clinical staff.** This document is **recommended to be shared with Parents/Carers** to identify strengths and areas for learning - the information may be shared with relevant professionals. Wherever possible ask parent/ carer(s) to **show you** and to **identify what they understand**/**are doing**. Ensure to provide advice and education if further support is required. **Remember to RECORD what you observed and what was said. Observations must be factual, not opinion or subjective interpretation**

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| **Aspects of Care** | | **Comments, Signature and Date** |
| What is the current knowledge and understanding of caring for a newborn?  (E.g. attendance at parenting education classes, previous children, new-borns in the family etc.) | |  |
| **Infant Feeding**  To observe parents/carers’ ability to appropriately and safely feed their baby | * Awareness of the signs of baby being hungry/satisfied and responding appropriately * Appropriate handling during feeding * Breastfeeding - handwashing, recognising good latch and signs of effective feeding/problems and when to ask for support * Formula Feeding – handwashing, describes how to make up feeds correctly and safe storage, sterilising of equipment |  |
| **Basic Care**  To observe parent/carers ability to provide basic care for their baby | * Warmth -providing appropriate clothing/blankets etc. * Hygiene - nappy changing, bathing, hand-washing * Appearance of baby - clean, dirty, saturated nappy, skin care * Appearance of clothes- clean, dirty or wet, appropriate for environment |  |
| **Ensuring Safety**  To observe the parent/carers ability to maintain a safe environment for their infant | * Cot sides/cot safety * Safe and appropriate holding/handling of baby (head support etc.) * Not swaddled or overwrapped * Can explain advice re reducing risk of SIDS and safe sleep (including co-sleeping) * Awareness of advice on ICON * Car seat safety |  |
| **Emotional warmth and Stability**  To observe the parents/carers ability to provide emotional warmth | * Is there evidence of attachment /bonding? * Eye contact maintained * Emotional warmth and availability noted * Speaks warmly to baby and about baby * Handling, comforting and cuddling baby |  |
| **Guidance and Boundaries**  To observe if parents/carers demonstrate and model appropriate behaviour, control emotions and interactions with others | * How do they behave to each other? * How do they behave towards others (including staff and others on the ward? * Is there evidence of positive support available? Describe the relationship to visiting siblings, if appropriate. |  |
| How confident do parents feel in the all aspects of caring for their new-born baby?  Are the parents/carers receptive to health advice?  How do the parents/carers respond to concerns raised (if any) about baby’s health?  Have parents/carers recognised any additional support that they require?  What additional advice and support would parents like from professionals? | | |
| **Please outline Midwifery plan** (if indicated) following on from above: | | |

Completed by (Full name)………………………………………………….Signed……………………………………………………………Date………………………………….........................