

THE MOVEMENT FOR BREASTFEEDING SICK BABIES IN THAILAND

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Background:

Although, Thailand has successfully lowered its neonatal mortality rate from 18 per 1000 live births in 1990 to 8 per 1000 live births in 2012, however, there is still a lot of "unfinished business." The unique benefits of breast milk can reduce the risk of short-and long-term morbidities of both preterm and sick infants. A multidisciplinary team of several health organizations in Thailand have decided to expand the Baby - friendly Hospital Initiative program to meet the special needs of these vulnerable infants, mothers, and families.

Objective:

1. To implement the Ten steps for promoting and protecting breastfeeding in vulnerable populations (Spatz, 2004) into Thai context.
2. To develop guideline and material for implementing the Ten steps across Thailand.

Methods:

Breastfeeding Sick Babies International Conference was the stage to transform all elements of the Ten Steps into real clinical practice. After the conference, the Ten Steps was applied in the pilot hospitals. Each hospital reflected the feasibility, experience, and the barrier after implementation.

Results:

The international conference has been held in 2013, 2014 and 2015. After the first conference in 2013, the Ten Steps was implemented in 6 pilot hospitals. These 6 pilot hospitals evaluated the possibility to apply the Ten steps in real contexts. The same process was repeated after the second conference in 2014, 10 pilot hospitals implemented the model successfully. The guideline and material (book, flip chart, etc.) are well developed and distributed.

Conclusions:

The Ten Steps and its guideline and material are practical and effective to apply in Thai hospitals.

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