

P 31. IMPLEMENTING BIRTH KANGAROO CARE FOR FULL-TERM INFANTS: A TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT IN THE U.S.

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Background: In 1991, the WHO launched the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative and in 1997 Baby-Friendly USA was formed to assist hospital in becoming baby friendly. But hospitals in the U.S. have been slow to become baby-friendly, only 56 hospitals in 2007. Maternity nurses (labor and delivery, postpartum, nursery and home care nurses and lactation consultants) are leading the change in birth practices so routine care includes skin-to-skin contact starting immediately after birth. But there is much resistance and many barriers to changing practice.

Aim: Implementing birth kangaroo care (BKC) as routine care through a translational research project.

Methods: A committee of maternity nurses gathered to explore the possibilities of implementing BKC. Working with nurse faculty researchers from a local university, committee members examined the evidence, documented current practices, delineated the barriers and developed bench marks to monitor outcomes of the practice change, especially on breastfeeding. Hospital policies were revised to assure they supported KC. Bench marking data was gathered for 6 months before the nursing staff attended a 4-hour educational session and the implementation of BKC began.

Results & Conclusions: Initial results of the implementation process including staff and patient satisfaction and breastfeeding outcomes over the first month will be presented. Keywords: Birth kangaroo care, breastfeeding, fullterm infant, baby-friendly hospital, practice change, translational research