



REGIONAL POLICY ON CHILD FEEDING FOR HOSPITALS

This Policy has been established by professionals from the Health Service of Murcia and approved by representatives from different Health Centres of the Region, as well as by the General Directorate of Healthcare. The contents of this policy commit to the 7 steps towards happy Natural Breastfeeding, the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes and the strategy for supporting natural childbirth.

This Policy is mandatory for all healthcare professionals when performing their professional duties within their job description.

At this hospital:

- 1 A written child feeding policy on breastfeeding is available upon request.
- 2 We are committed to providing the healthcare professionals with the tools to implement this policy.
- 3 Pregnant women and their families will be given information on the benefits and management of breastfeeding.
- 4 Skin-to-skin contact will be encouraged immediately and without interruption and we will help mothers to start breastfeeding as soon as possible after birth.
- 5 The professionals of this centre are committed to supporting mothers at the beginning and establishment of breastfeeding, by working with mothers and helping them overcome the most common difficulties.
- 6 We will give breastfed new-borns only breast milk, unless there are medical reasons.
- 7 Mothers and their babies will be able to stay together in the same room 24 hours a day.
- 8 Mothers will be provided with help and counselling so that they can recognise and respond to the feeding signals of their babies.
- 9 Mothers will be given information on the risks of using teats and dummies.
- 10 We will coordinate discharge with the healthcare centre so that parents and babies have proper access to continuous attention and healthcare.

In this hospital we comply with the regulations established on the Code of Marketing of Substitutes, and related resolutions of the World Health Organization.