The OB CUSP team would like to share with you their work on a project to improve infant feeding assessment through improved documentation. This project was initiated in response to our unit’s failure to meet documentation standards and best practice guidelines. As more NICU and PEDS nurses, travelers, and new staff are caring for our babies, we want all staff to be reminded of documentation standards and that we are actively auditing charts.

* Each shift the RN is responsible for documenting a feed or feeding attempt at least q 3-4 hours as ordered and appropriate for gestational age.
* In addition, at least 2 LATCH scores should be documented per shift. Feeding readiness and feeding assessment are useful assessments and are often included, but not specifically audited. Please reach out to Lactation for educational support if you are not sure of your comfort level in assessing LATCH.
* Required documentation for stool assessment needs to include description and amount for each occurrence. This helps the care team to assess infant feeding progress and success.

If your baby is due to feed at shift change, please take responsibility for this documentation and communication to the oncoming shift. On day of discharge, please continue documentation until infant leaves the unit.

As we are not meeting regulatory or best practice standards and it remains a significant concern that only 1 or 2 charts a month is complete at discharge, the committee and management have agreed on these "Next Steps".

* CUSP team members will continue monthly audits of all preterm and a random selection of term infant charts.
  + first deficit - staff member will be notified by email for individual feedback
  + second deficit - staff member will conduct 2 chart audits with a CUSP team member
  + third deficit - manager notification and verbal discipline

Please ensure that the care that you give is documented and review your charts at the end of your shift for completeness. We are a great team and together we will support each other in this effort.

Thank you,

OB CUSP Committee