

**P 30. BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR MOTHER-INFANT ATTACHMENT
IN THE HOSPITAL** Carol Lopez Melcher, RNC, CLE, MPH, Clinical Director
*Perinatal Services Network of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, Loma Linda,
California, USA*

The Perinatal Services Network has written eight guidelines to assist hospitals in their effort to provide evidence-based care that specifically focuses on mother-infant attachment. This document includes detailed rationale and evidence for each of the eight guidelines. The release of the "Best Practice Guidelines for Mother-Infant Attachment in the Hospital" is targeted for fall, 2008. In anticipation of its release, we have developed a Hospital Appraisal Tool and a Best Practice Curriculum to allow hospital groups to improve their care of the mother-infant bond.

We believe that early skin-to-skin care is the most significant change in practice represented in the "Best Practice Guidelines". There is strong evidence that babies experiencing early skin-to-skin care are more able to interact with their mothers, breastfeed better and are more stable post birth. We have seen this exemplified in the hospitals where the "Best Practices Guidelines" have been implemented. We believe this is the first attempt at compiling the current evidence and writing specific guidelines for hospitals