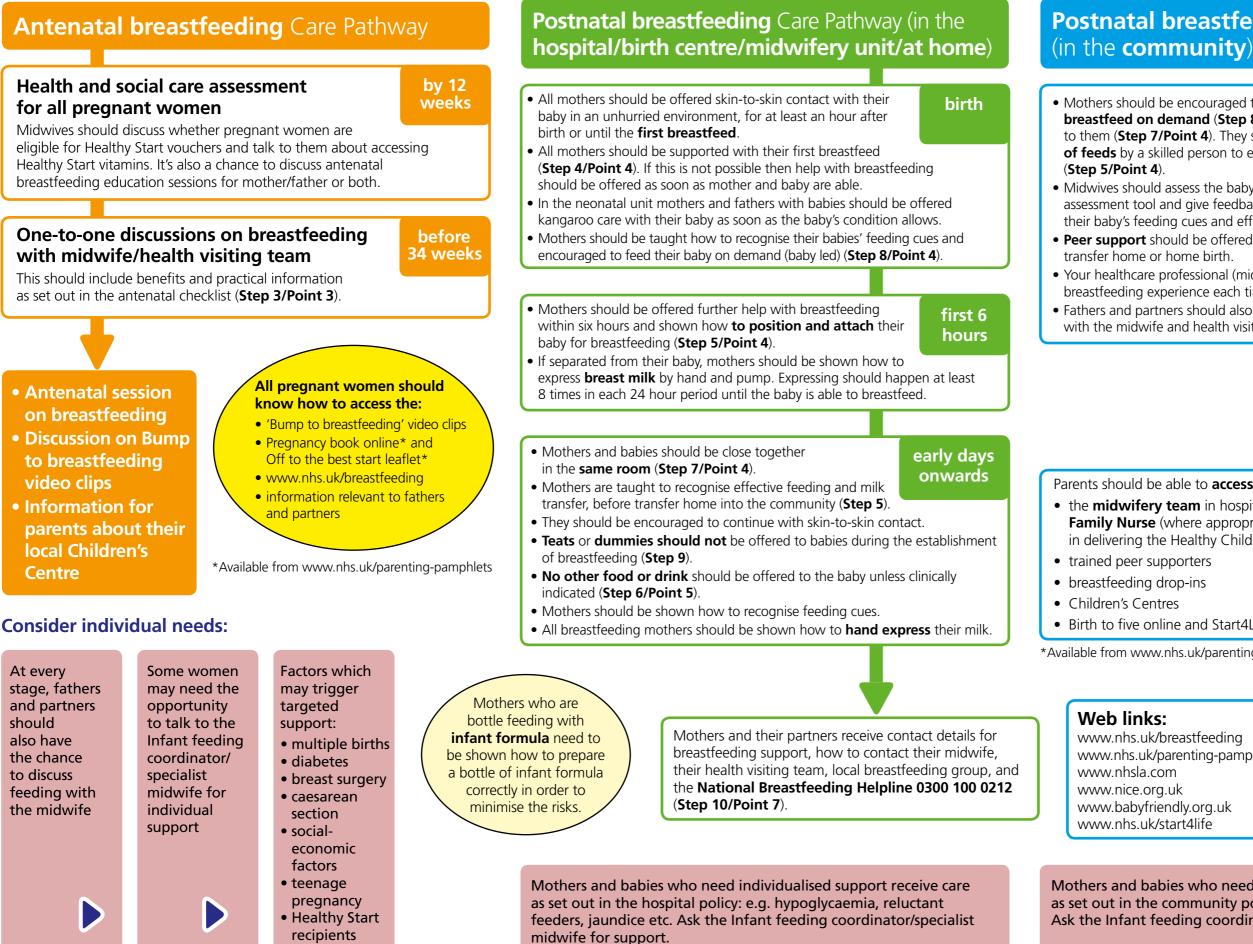
Breastfeeding Care Pathway

Your baby and you: Your breastfeeding journey Feeding is important to the development of every baby. Effective care of all mothers and babies will help to ensure their future health and wellbeing. The Steps/Points referred to in this pathway reflect the World Health Organisation/UNICEF best practice for hospital (steps) and community health care settings (points). All hospital and community settings should have a breastfeeding policy (Step 1/Point 1) and frontline staff trained to implement the policy (Step 2/Point 2). When all Steps/ Points are achieved by the hospital or community setting it is fully accredited.













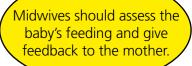
Postnatal breastfeeding Care Pathway

• Mothers should be encouraged to have **skin-to-skin** contact, to breastfeed on demand (Step 8/Point 4), and keep their baby close to them (Step 7/Point 4). They should be offered skilled assessment of feeds by a skilled person to ensure feeds are comfortable, and effective

• Midwives should assess the baby's feeding, complete the breastfeeding assessment tool and give feedback to the mother, helping them recognise their baby's feeding cues and effective milk transfer (Step 5/Point 4). • Peer support should be offered where possible within 48 hours of

• Your healthcare professional (midwife or health visitor) should review your breastfeeding experience each time you meet.

• Fathers and partners should also have the chance to discuss feeding with the midwife and health visiting team.



Parents should be able to **access support** from:

• the **midwifery team** in hospital and in the early days at home, the Family Nurse (where appropriate) and their health visiting teams in delivering the Healthy Child Programme

Birth to five online and Start4Life leaflets*

*Available from www.nhs.uk/parenting-pamphlets

www.nhs.uk/parenting-pamphlets

Mothers who are bottle feeding with infant formula need to be shown how to prepare a bottle of infant formula correctly in order to minimise the risks.

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Mothers and babies who need individual support receive care as set out in the community policy: e.g. mastitis, tongue tie etc. Ask the Infant feeding coordinator/specialist midwife for support.