



## Evidence Request #P0017

### Treatment Guidelines for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

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#### Abstract

**Background:** Midwifery services are seeing increasing numbers of women who consume alcohol at excessive levels during their pregnancy. Currently, there is no guideline in place for managing infants of these mothers during the first 6 weeks following birth. Clinicians would like to identify best practice and standardise care for these infants.

**Clinical Question:** Do evidence-based guidelines exist for treatment in the first 6 weeks of life of infants of mothers who consume alcohol at excessive levels during their pregnancies?

**Methods:** We included all guidelines for treatment of infants published in English. Guidelines in children over 12 months old and adult patients were excluded.

We searched Medline, CINAHL and several key guideline websites in July 2006. We also searched The Cochrane Library, including The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, DARE, CENTRAL and HTA.

Guidelines were selected and appraised by one reviewer in consultation with colleagues, using inclusion, exclusion and appraisal criteria established a priori.

**Results:** No relevant evidence-based guidelines were identified. There are several non-evidence based guidelines that focus on diagnosis and referral of infants with disorders including foetal alcohol syndrome, foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, neonatal abstinence syndrome or neonatal drug withdrawal, however these guidelines do not provide details on management.

**Conclusions:** There are no evidence-based guidelines to direct the treatment for the first 6 weeks of life of infants of mothers who consume alcohol at excessive levels during their pregnancies.

**Implications for Practice:** Guidelines to direct treatment for the first 6 weeks of life of infants of mothers who consume alcohol at excessive levels during their pregnancies should be based on a thorough review of the available research evidence, directed by a multidisciplinary group including representatives of all relevant clinical areas and consumers.

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## Background

Midwifery services are seeing increasing numbers of women who consume alcohol at excessive levels during their pregnancies. Currently, there is no guideline in place at Southern Health to guide management of infants of these mothers in the first 6 weeks following birth. Clinicians would like to identify best practice and standardise care for these infants.

## Clinical Question

Do evidence-based guidelines exist for the management of infants of mothers who consume alcohol at excessive levels during their pregnancies, during the first 6 weeks following birth?

## Methods

### Study Selection Criteria

<b>Patient</b>	Infants of mothers who consume alcohol at excessive levels during their pregnancies.				
<b>Intervention</b>	Management for the first 6 weeks (or longer) after birth				
<b>Comparison</b>	Any	<b>Outcomes</b>	Any		
<b>Study Type</b>	Guideline	<b>Publication Date</b>	Any	<b>Language</b>	English

### Search Strategy

Evidence Source	Date of Search	Evidence Source	Date of Search
Medline (Ovid)	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2006	The Cochrane Library *	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2006
CINAHL (Ovid)	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2006	*(including CDSR, DARE, CENTRAL and HTA)	

Guidelines Resources	URLs – All searched 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2006
NHMRC Guidelines	<a href="http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/subjects/clinical.htm">www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/subjects/clinical.htm</a>
New Zealand Guideline Group	<a href="http://www.nzgg.org.nz">www.nzgg.org.nz</a>
US National Guideline Clearinghouse	<a href="http://www.guidelines.gov">www.guidelines.gov</a>
UK National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	<a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">www.nice.org.uk</a>
Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network	<a href="http://www.sign.ac.uk">www.sign.ac.uk</a>
International Guideline Databases	<a href="http://www.leitlinien.de/leitlinienanbieter/fremdsprachig_en/">www.leitlinien.de/leitlinienanbieter/fremdsprachig_en/</a>
TRIP Database	<a href="http://www.tripdatabase.com">www.tripdatabase.com</a>
UK Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	<a href="http://www.rcog.org.uk">www.rcog.org.uk</a>
Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada	<a href="http://sogc.medical.org/guidelines/">sogc.medical.org/guidelines/</a>
Canadian Paediatric Society	<a href="http://www.cps.ca/english/publications/fetusandnewborn.htm">www.cps.ca/english/publications/fetusandnewborn.htm</a>
American Academy of Pediatrics	<a href="http://aappolicy.aappublications.org">aappolicy.aappublications.org</a>
Cincinnati Children's Hospital	<a href="http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org">www.cincinnatichildrens.org</a>
Google	<a href="http://www.google.com">www.google.com</a>

### Search Terms in Medline

<b>Patient</b>	((ethanol.mp. OR exp Ethanol/) OR (alcohol\$ or abstinence).mp. OR alcohol-induced disorders/ OR exp alcoholic intoxication/ OR exp alcoholism/) AND (exp Infant, Newborn/ OR (neonat\$ OR newborn OR infant).mp. OR exp Fetal Development/ OR (fetal OR foetal OR foetus OR fetus).mp.)) OR (exp fetal alcohol syndrome/ OR Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/))
<b>Study Type</b>	exp "Guideline [Publication Type]"/ OR Clinical Protocols/ OR exp Guidelines/ OR (guideline\$ or protocol\$ or practice parameter\$).mp.

## Data Collection & Analysis

Guidelines were selected using inclusion, exclusion and appraisal criteria established a priori and appraised following the AGREE criteria ([www.agreecollaboration.org](http://www.agreecollaboration.org)) by one reviewer in consultation with colleagues.

## Results

No relevant evidence-based guidelines were identified.

There are several non-evidence based guidelines that focus on diagnosis and referral of infants with disorders described using a variety of terms including foetal alcohol syndrome, foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, neonatal abstinence syndrome or neonatal drug withdrawal, however these guidelines do not provide details on management.

## Conclusions

There are no evidence-based guidelines to direct the treatment for the first 6 weeks of life of infants of mothers who consume alcohol at excessive levels during their pregnancy.

## Implications for Practice

Guidelines to direct treatment for the first 6 weeks of life of infants of mothers who consume alcohol at excessive levels during their pregnancy, should be based on a thorough review of the available research evidence, directed by a multidisciplinary group including representatives of all relevant clinical areas and consumers.

## References

No relevant evidence-based guidelines were identified.

## Disclaimer

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