

**Keywords:** Breastfeeding; Baby friendly hospital initiative; Evaluation of health service; Hospital assistance

## Introduction

It is known that during the delivery and the neonatal period that the human being faces the greatest risks to die: according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Each year about four million newborns die, approximately 10 thousands per day, and about 75 per cent of those deaths take place in the first week of life [1]. The neonatal mortality for every cause could be reduced by 16.3 per cent if every child started breastfeeding at the first day of life and in 22.3 per cent if breastfeeding occurred in the first half hour, as showed in the study with 11,300 children in Ghana. The mechanisms for such reduction would be at least the following: mothers who breastfeed immediately after the delivery have more chance to be successful in the breastfeeding practice. The pre-lacteal food, normally offered to the babies before breastfeeding, can cause lesion in the baby immature intestine; while the colostrums accelerates the maturation of the intestinal epithelium and as well as protects against pathogenic agents; and the skin to skin contact prevents hypothermia [2].

The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) was launched in 1991 with aim to become the hospitals friendly to the breastfeeding practices, through the implantation of the "Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding" (Box 1) and no distribution of sample or donation of infant formula, or even your purchase subsidized [3]. The "Ten Steps"

represent a summary of the main hospital routines which take to an adequate beginning of breastfeeding and its exclusive practice for the first six months. While the donation of infant formula represents no incentive to the misuse of artificial milks, which risk is high if it is not prescribed individually with proper criteria, in the moment that lactation is not established yet. As each year more and more births take

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want), know quickly about the conditions of the accredited hospitals, requesting report that can be sent online. The WHO and the UNICEF recommend that the evaluation for the hospital to become a BFH, have validity for three years and then be re-evaluated. The Brazilian Minister of Health adhered to that proposal and is requesting that the computerized tool be applied once a year as form of monitoring. From the receipt of these results a random maternity might be visited to be re-evaluated by the external evaluators. It will be important to follow this proposal in the next years to verify its viability and results. As part of the recommendation that a team of researchers from other countries look forward to use and evaluate the computerized tool for monitoring and evaluation of the BFHI enable to have more possibilities to discuss this and other forms to sustain the initiative with quality.

#### References

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