

NICU Feeding Readiness Scales

ORG A

What feeding readiness scales does your NICU currently use to determine when infants are showing readiness to begin oral feedings

Infant Driven Feeding Readiness Scales

Who typically administers and scores the readiness scale?

RN, therapists

What type of training does staff need to use the feeding readiness scale?

This scale was implemented many years ago when the program was still owned by Sue Ludwig and Kara Ann Waitzman. They came onsite to our hospital to train RNs and staff. Since that time training is completed as part of their orientation.

Do you feel the scales are consistently used to accurately guide feeding?

In the NICU yes as IDF is engrained in that culture. We are trying to implement better education regarding readiness within our Cardiac Care Unit.

As a therapy team we have also implemented the Readiness portion of the Developmental Participation Skills Assessment (DPS) which is a newly published scale on infant readiness.

ORG B

ORG C

We use the Infant-Driven Feeding Scales provided by Dr. Brown

Dr. Brown's Infant Driven Feeding

The nurses will begin IDF Readiness scoring typically when the patient is > 33 weeks gestation and medically stable.

? I just spoke to four RN's who all reported "we don't get trained on IDF." One said that she brought her knowledge from her past hospital.
trigger ST project

The scales are documented consistently with every touch time when the nurse has begun IDF scoring, but are not consistently used accurately. For example, a IDF score may be documented that should be a stop signal that infant is not ready to orally feed, but an oral feeding was attempted anyways.

Nsg typically scores with each cares (typically every 3 or 4 hours), therapy helps with scoring if seeing for non-nutritive skills.

Initial training was done hospital wide using the 3-4 hour training provided by IDF (we did it prior to Dr. Brown owning the program so it may be slightly different now). Current new nurses watch a HLC and receive training from their preceptors as well as OT providing a 30-minute inservice during their orientation and a follow up during their car seat class after they have completed their orientation. Staff continue to benefit from reinforcement of this training from therapy staff - from nursing to NNPs to attendings.

Scales are not consistently used to accurately guide feeding in our NICU. This is an area that we continue to struggle with.

ORG D

Within the last year, our team developed our own scales after a licensing issue with using the official "Infant Driven Feeding" scales

Bedside nurse

It's now part of nurse onboarding education for new nurses. I don't recall the specific process to educate the nurses already hired.

Depends on the nurse. We are working on more consistent reporting and reliance on their info to guide feeding. We've implemented Speech/feeding rounds during which we talk about score history and trends. The more we talk about it in those rounds, the more that those bedside nurses understand the relevance of them.

ORG E

We do not utilize a Feeding Readiness Scale in our NICU. Since we don't use a formal scale, the other questions do not apply.

ORG F

We currently use Infant Driven Feeding (IDF) Nursing scores prior to meeting readiness. If OT is doing a developmental session right before the feeding, we assist the nurse with scoring. Once the baby meets readiness, whoever is doing the feeding (OT, SLP, or RN) enters scores in a flowsheet.

Dr. Brown's offers training videos that we watched to become competent in this skill.

Some nurses incorrectly score at times. We work with them to make sure they understand the scoring if they have questions.