

Assessing Infant Safety

during initial and follow-up visits

a quick guide to assist in the assessment of infant safety

safe sleep

- Where does baby sleep at night?
- Where does baby sleep for naps?
- Where is baby fed in middle of night?
- Observe sleeping arrangements

Discuss the ABCs of safe sleep:

Alone
Back
Crib

environment

- Who lives in the home?
- Who frequently visits the home?
- Are there pets in the home?
- Is child ambulatory?
 - Baby gates?
 - Cabinet locks?
 - Outlet covers?
- Does caregiver take any medications?

medical

- Last/next medical appointment?
 - Primary care physician?
 - Obtain consent form for records
 - Diagnosis? Medications?
 - Check for sentinel injuries
- A *sentinel injury* is a visible injury to a non-ambulatory infant that can often precede more serious abuse.

food

- Formula or breast fed?
- Ask about bottle preparation
 - How many scoops formula?
 - How many ounces/how often?
- Concern with baby eating?
 - Excessive crying, spitting up
- Is baby fed anything additional?
- Observe food supply

- Who is primary caregiver?
- Who assists with childcare?
- Does infant attend daycare?
- Where is infant when not in the crib?
- Where is infant bathed?
 - Discuss supervision around water
 - Check water temperature

supervision



- Does infant have age and weather appropriate clothing?
- Observe diaper supply

clothing



- How is mom feeling?
- Did she attend 6-week follow up exam (if applicable)?
- Who can mom depend on for help if overwhelmed?
- Excessive feelings of sadness or hopelessness?
- Linked with community services and supports?

support

