

# ASSESSMENT OF THE NEWBORN AT BIRTH

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- How to score a baby at birth
- How to identify and classify a new born.

# Introduction

- Every neonate needs a quick assessment at birth to determine need for resuscitation and act within the golden minute.
- This should be done before assessing the APGAR score and healthcare providers should not wait for APGAR score to determine the need for resuscitation.
- If baby is not breathing ensure you initiate PPV before the end of one minute.

# Is the baby breathing?

Is the baby is breathing?

No

Yes

Resuscitate

Assess ABC and need  
for **Emergency  
Treatment**

# How to score a baby at birth

- Scoring a baby at birth requires knowledge of what to score, a skill of how it is done, how and when to do it.
- APGAR score is a tool healthcare providers use to assess how the baby is doing immediately after birth.
- It lets providers quickly determine if a baby might need extra care.
- One thing it can't do is to predict their intelligence, how they will develop or their health.
- It is not the only thing providers rely on when determining the care the baby needs.

# WHO INVENTED THE APGAR SCORE

- Dr Virginia Apgar, an anestheologist, first described it in 1952 and published a research paper in 1953.
- However the scoring system did not use the letters of her name but later in 1962 there was a pair of paediatricians who started using her name which made scoring easier.

# THE APGAR SCORE TABLE

SIGN	0	1	2
APPEARANCE	BLUE OR PALE	BODY PINK, LIMBS BLUE	ALL PINK
PULSE	ABSENT	LESS THAN 100beats/min	MORE THAN 100beats/min
GRIMACE	NO RESPONSE	GRIMACE	COUGHING AND CRYING
ACTIVITY	LIMP	WEAK	STRONG
RESPIRATION	ABSENT	IRREGULAR, SLOW	GOOD, CRYING

# DESCRIPTION OF THE TABLE

SIGN	DESCRIPTION
APPEARANCE	This looks at the skin colour as evidence for blood oxygen levels. -Pink skin on your baby's palms and feet especially if baby is light skinned scores highest.
PULSE	This centres on your baby's heart rate and it should be more than 100 beats/ minute.
GRIMACE	-This is response to irritability and how strongly they react indicates how responsive they are. -You can use suction of the mouth or nose and look out for reflex irritability.
ACTIVITY	How much your baby moves their body can provide a clue to their overall state.
RESPIRATION	This is how well the baby is breathing. It should be strong, regular breathing and crying.

# IDENTIFYING AND CLASSIFYING A NEWBORN.

- Each of the above five signs scores from 0 to 2.
- The total score ranges from 0 to 10.
- 7 to 10 is reassuring.
- 4 to 6 is Moderately abnormal .
- 0 to 3 is low score .

cont.

- The score is done at one minute, five and if the five minute score is less than 7, then check the score at a five minute interval until 20 minutes after birth.
- Follow the action plan for ENC1 to provide care for the baby.
- Ensure warmth, infection prevention and continuous assessment of breathing, heart rate, colour, muscle tone.

# Key message

- ▶ Ensure baby is kept warm throughout.
- ▶ Do a quick assessment of ABC and act accordingly.
- ▶ Your actions determine the outcome of the baby not the scoring.

*Thank you for listening*