Unnecessary formula supplementation

**S:** Term infants in the NICU are receiving unnecessary formula supplementation.

**B:**
- Only small amounts of colostrum are expected to be produced on the first days of life. This is what the baby would receive if at home breastfeeding. Breastfeeding infants consume an average of 15±11g of milk in the first 24hrs and only 1.5±0.5g of milk on the first day of life (Santoro et al., 2010).
- Benefits of EBM are well known and increased with exclusivity and duration in a dose-dependent manner (Furman, 2017).
- Feeding formula in hospital is associated with shorter duration of breastfeeding at home (McCoy, 2020). Breastfeeding infants in hospital have a reduced time to first feed of EBM on average of 15±11g of milk in the first 24hrs and only 1.5±0.5g of milk in the first day of life (Santoro et al., 2010).
- Giving unnecessary formula feeds in the first days of life can affect transition to breastfeeding and permanently affect mother's milk supply - a full baby will not latch and stimulate supply/demand for milk production (Chantry et al., 2014).
- Our feeding guideline states “partial feeds may be given as [parent’s] own milk becomes available.”
- Feeding protocols should not override natural feeding patterns in term infants without GI complications. Feeding protocols guide intake for premature infants and infants with GI complications. Feeding protocols require 48ml of formula on DOL 1. Feeding protocols guide intake for as per unit’s feeding protocol. Baby may receive up to 48ml of formula on DOL 1. Feeding protocols require 48ml of formula on DOL 1.
- For term babies, wait for the normal delay in parental milk availability and feed EBM as available. Can consider formula if formula is not necessary in the first days of life for a full term infant with a healthy GI tract unless parents do not wish to give breast milk.

**R:** For term babies, wait for the normal delay in parental milk availability and feed EBM as available. Can consider formula if formula is not necessary in the first days of life for a full term infant with a healthy GI tract unless parents do not wish to give breast milk.

**A:**
- Formula is not necessary in the first days of life for a full term infant with a healthy GI tract unless parents do not wish to give breast milk.

**Note:** Healthcare Communication Tool SBAR = Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation.
Wait 3 Days for Parent's Own Milk

Natural milk volumes in the first 3 days of life are lower than our term feeding protocols provide. Breasts produce only a few mL of colostrum on the first days of life. This is all a baby at home would feed and is enough to meet the first days of life. Providing formula just to meet protocol volumes is not necessary. Providing formula provides natural volumes for baby, is nutritionally appropriate, helps to promote the value of human milk as best, shows support for the pumping parent, helps to promote transition to breastfeeding, and helps to promote transition to breastfeeding protocols provide.

For term infants, wait 3 days for parent's own milk before providing formula.