MODIFIED BRIDGES FOR NEWBORNS: FACT SHEET

WHAT IS THE MODIFIED BRIDGES FOR NEWBORNS?

The Modified Bridges for Newborns is a screening tool, which aims to identify families at greatest risk.

HOW WAS THE MODIFIED BRIDGES FOR NEWBORNS DEVELOPED?

The Bridges for Newborns screening tool was developed by the Children and Families Commission of Orange County to screen new mothers for risk and connect them to services. It was validated and has been used in Orange County for over a decade. Welcome Baby adopted the screening tool in its pilot community. After an initial piloting phase, it was modified for use in Los Angeles County (e.g., separation of double barreled questions, scoring changes). The Modified Bridges for Newborns will be used at all Welcome Baby sites.

WHAT DOES THE MODIFIED BRIDGES FOR NEWBORNS MEASURE?

The Modified Bridges for Newborns measures 3 domains of maternal and infant risk.

- Medical
  - Examples: health care coverage, infant feeding problems
- Psychosocial
  - Examples: family support, history of domestic violence
- Demographic & Basic Needs
  - Examples: maternal age, current housing conditions, income

HOW IS THE MODIFIED BRIDGES FOR NEWBORNS SCORED?

There are 26 items on the screening tool and higher scores indicate greater risk.

The tool is scored by the specially trained Hospital Liaisons who conduct the Welcome Baby hospital visit. The screening tool is not intended to be administered in a formal manner. Rather, Hospital Liaisons acquire the information necessary to complete the tool through conversation with the mother.

WHO IS SCREENED WITH THE MODIFIED BRIDGES FOR NEWBORNS?

All women delivering at participating hospitals are eligible for a Welcome Baby hospital visit. During this visit, mothers are screened with the Modified Bridges for Newborns.

HOW IS THE MODIFIED BRIDGES FOR NEWBORNS USED?

Scores on the Modified Bridges for Newborns, along with geographic location, are used to determine the level of services received by families at the completion of the Welcome Baby hospital visit.

- High score + Best Start Community → Family is referred to a more intensive home visiting program
- Low to moderate score + Best Start Community → Family receives up to 5 postpartum Welcome Baby sessions
- High score + non-Best Start Community → Family receives up to 3 postpartum Welcome Baby Sessions
- Low to moderate score + non-Best Start Community → Family receives information and referrals as appropriate

Scores are also used by home visiting staff to prepare for cases and to better understand the needs of their clients.