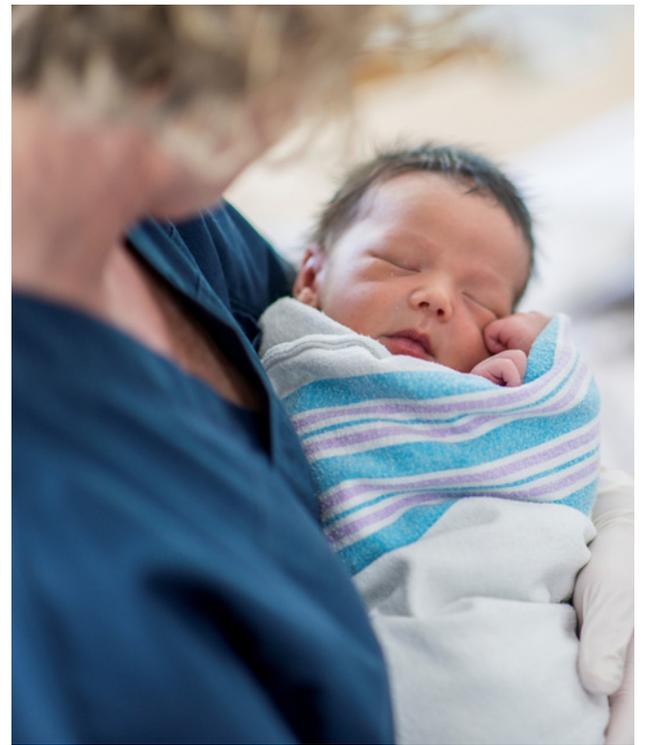


Three Reasons Nurses Are a Critical Component of the Family Connects Model



Home visiting programs across the country use nurses, social workers, trained community-health workers and sometimes a combination of staff to implement programs. Why does the Family Connects model require that only registered nurses provide all home visits?

1. Timing

Family Connects home visits typically take place about three weeks after the birth of a child. Newborns and birth mothers in the immediate postpartum period are vulnerable to a range of health complications, some of which can be fatal if left undetected. Registered nurses are trained to carefully assess both newborns and birth mothers, to determine the appropriate level of care required and to educate families on emergency warning signs so that they know when to seek urgent medical care after the nurse has left the home.



2. Knowledge

The Family Connects home visit includes a detailed assessment of physical health, connection to health and community services, child care plans, infant attachment, intimate partner violence, substance use disorders, perinatal mood disorders, and more. Family Connects home visitors need a broad base of knowledge in all of these areas to make an accurate assessment of family need, provide specific instruction, and connect families to appropriate resources. The broad knowledge base that registered nurses already have, combined with the specialized, ongoing training provided by Family Connects International, means that families are getting expert advice and support delivered consistently through an evidence-based model.

3. Trust

Since 2002, Gallup's annual survey has shown that Americans rank nurses as the most trusted of all professionals with the highest ethical standards. When a nurse knocks on the door, families are comfortable welcoming them into their homes — they understand that nurses provide non-judgmental care to everyone.

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