

# BUDS!

THINK.CHANGE.DO



UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

SEPTEMBER 2009

NURSING, MIDWIFERY & HEALTH

## The BUDSET

**B**irthing

**U**nit

**D**esign

**S**patial

**E**valuation

**T**ool

# BUDSET

## Birthing Unit Design

### Spatial Evaluation Tool

**Centre Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Note on Scoring.

Item is present?

0 - no

1 - yes

Foureur MJ, Sheehy A, Forbes, IFW, Davis DL, Pandolfo B, Fenwick J, Verghese G, Leap, N, Homer CSE (2010). *The BUDSet Tool: Birthing Unit Design Spatial Evaluation Tool* (Version 2). Centre for Midwifery Child and Family Health, University of Technology Sydney, Sydney.

### 100 FEAR CASCADE

Number	Fear Cascade Characteristic	Score
N100	<b>Space - Arrival</b>	(6 points)
	A. Maternity drop-off area is directionally well labelled	0 1
	B. Drop-off area is well lit	0 1
	C. Drop-off area has temporary parking places	0 1
	D. Drop off area is clean and uncluttered	0 1
	E. Birth unit has a dedicated entrance <i>separate from main hospital entrance</i>	0 1
	F. The distance from the drop off area to the birth unit is short and route logical	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	
N101	<b>Space - Reception</b>	(5 points)
	A. Reception space is clearly identified	0 1
	B. Reception desk is open and inviting (includes low counter to ensure clear line of sight with the woman)	0 1
	C. Area around reception is clean and uncluttered	0 1
	D. Reception has indoor plants, flowers	0 1
	E. Reception area and corridor is free from medical equipment or clinical signage	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	
N102	<b>Space - Birthing Rooms</b>	(5 points)
	A. Internal birth room is shielded from exposure to the main corridor area (eg using an ante room, short corridor, curtain, screen, partition)	0 1
	B. There is sufficient space within the room for the woman to freely move around	0 1
	C. The bed occupies less than 1/3rd of the space within the room	0 1
	D. The bed is not the first object seen on entering the room	0 1
	E. The bed is able to be moved out of the way to enable the woman to choose a range of support options	0 1

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		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	
<b>N103</b>	<b>Space - Outside</b>	(5 points)
	A. A window is present	0 1
	B. Outside views include nature	0 1
	C. Outside space is accessible with places to sit	0 1
	D. Outside space provides positive distractions <i>plants, flowers, water features</i>	0 1
	E. Outside space minimizes intrusions <i>urban noise, smoke, artificial lighting</i>	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	
<b>N104</b>	<b>Sense of Domesticity</b>	(5 points)
	A. Décor has a domestic rather than institutional feel	0 1
	B. Room is clean without evidence of previous use	0 1
	C. Medical gasses available and obscured from view	0 1
	D. Trolleys and Emergency equipment obscured from view	0 1
	E. Linen hampers and waste bins obscured from view	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	
<b>N105</b>	<b>Privacy</b>	(6 points)
	A. Rooms contain interior lockable doors to control who enters the room	0 1
	B. A 'Knock Before Entering' policy used and enforced by staff	0 1
	C. Perception of not being able to be seen from outside the window	0 1
	D. Secure and lockable places for women's belongings when leaving the room	0 1
	E. Entry door screened so women cannot be observed from the doorway	0 1
	F. Window-less doors for entry to birth room	0 1

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		<b>Overall</b> _ _
	Comments:	
N106	<b>Noise Control</b>	(5 points)
	A. Loudspeaker paging system and/or common music not audible in birth room	0 1
	B. Confidentiality 1 <b>Marginal/Poor to No Privacy</b> - most to all conversation and birthing sounds can be overheard and intelligible to unintended listeners 2 <b>Normal</b> - conversations and birthing sounds may be overheard but are only partially intelligible 3 <b>Confidential</b> - conversations and birthing sounds are not overheard outside the confines of the space	1 2 3
	C. Music can be selected and controlled by woman within the rooms	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> _ _
	Comments:	
N107	<b>Universal Precautions and communication</b>	(5 points)
	A. Scrub basin in room with soap and glove dispenser available but not directly visible to the woman	0 1
	B. Sharps disposal box located within room but not directly visible to the woman	0 1
	C. Staff assist systems installed in room	0 1
	D. Presence of telephone or intercom in room	0 1
	E. Anti-slip devices present around water usage areas to prevent slipping of woman and/or staff	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> _ _
	Comments:	

## 200 FACILITY

Number	Facility Characteristic	Score
N200	<b>Physical Support</b>	(5 points)
	A. Availability of birth assistance material in the actual room	0 1
	B. Presence of bars on walls at various heights	0 1
	C. Presence of mantelpiece or bench on which to lean	0 1
	D. Presence of comfortable chair for breastfeeding	0 1
	E. Furniture (eg bed) able to be moved to the corner or side of the room	0 1
	F. Gas outlets flexible enough to allow woman's movement	
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	
N201	<b>Birthing Bath</b>	(9 points)
	A. Birthing bath present	0 1
	B. Access to bath is directly connected with birth room	0 1
	C. Bath is deep and wide enough allowing woman's back/buttocks/perineum to be totally immersed when on hands and knees	0 1
	D. The woman has access to hand rails to assist position change	0 1
	E. Two-sided access to the bath	0 1
	F. Short wide bore taps to enable quick filling of bath	0 1
	G. Wide bore drain for quick emptying of the bath	0 1
	H. Thermostatically controlled bath water	0 1
	I. Access to a shower hose over the bath	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments	
N202	<b>En suite bathroom facilities</b>	(8 points)
	A. Toilet and shower in en suite available	0 1
	B. There is adequate space within toilet and shower room for the woman to labour and birth	0 1
	C. Drainage is off set under the shower to allow free drainage if the woman is sitting on a birth ball	0 1

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D. Décor has a domestic rather than institutional feel	0 1
E. The woman has access to hand rails to assist position change	0 1
	<b>Overall</b> __ __
Comments:	

### 300 AESTHETICS

Number	Aesthetic Characteristic	Score
N300	<b>Light</b>	(7 points)
	A. Presence of natural light through windows and/or skylights	0 1
	B. Windows low enough to see through when lying in bed	0 1
	C. Window dressings (blinds, curtains are present and functional)	0 1
	D. Ability to control lighting	0 1
	E. Multiple lighting options in all areas (eg. Bedside lamp)	0 1
	D. Absence of fixed ceiling operating theatre lighting	0 1
	E. Ability to create a "cave-like" space <i>dark and protective</i>	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	
N301	<b>Colour</b>	(5 points)
	A. Contemporary combination of colours are used	0 1
	B. Colour has a domestic rather than institutional feel	0 1
	C. Floor finish is matt	0 1
	D. Minimal use of white and/or yellow	0 1
	E. Minimal use of highly reflective (gloss/semi gloss) paint	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	

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N302	<b>Texture</b>	(5 points)
	A. Presence of textural variety in the birth room	0 1
	B. Some furnishings are soft/yielding	0 1
	C. Some furnishings provide firm support	0 1
	D. Use of natural materials	0 1
	E. Minimal use of metallic materials on surfaces or the presence of metal/industrial/trolleys	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	
N303	<b>Indoor Environment</b>	(6 points)
	A. Adjustable temperature to enable woman to be naked in comfort	0 1
	B. Additional heating for mother and baby available	0 1
	C. Blanket warming cupboard or system available	0 1
	D. Hot pack heating facility available	0 1
	D. Windows open for fresh air	0 1
	E. Ability to use aromatherapy or oil burner	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	
N304	<b>Femininity</b>	(5 points)
	A. Images of mothers and babies and/or views of nature in artworks within common areas	0 1
	B. Rounded corners and edges to walls and furniture	0 1
	C. Presence of appropriate flowers/ potted plants within birthing room	0 1
	D. Sense of calm and peacefulness within common areas	0 1
	E. References made to multiple cultures in artworks	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __



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	Comments:
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**400 SUPPORT**

Number	Support Characteristic	Score
N400	<b>Food and Drink for the Woman</b>	(6 points)
	A. Food and drink available 24 hours	0 1
	B. Microwave for heating foods available and accessible	0 1
	C. Toaster available or accessible through staff	0 1
	D. Hot water available and accessible	0 1
	E. Refrigerator with ice available	0 1
	F. Refrigerator in the birth room	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	
N401	<b>Accommodation for Companions and Birth Attendants</b>	(6 points)
	A. Companions are made to feel welcome outside of birthing room without feeling a sense of intrusiveness <i>eg able to access toilets, food, water, etc</i>	0 1
	B. Access to food/drink vending machines nearby	0 1
	C. Access to telephones or place to use mobile phone	0 1
	D. Access to toilet & shower not in birth room	0 1
	E Presence of play room and/or provisions for the entertainment/distraction of children/siblings	0 1
	E. Comfortable place for supporters to rest or lie down inside and outside the birthing room	0 1
		<b>Overall</b> __ __
	Comments:	

**500 FINAL SCORES**

<b>Number Series</b>	<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Audit Score</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Final Score</b>	<b>Ideal Score</b>
N100	Space arrival		1		
N101	Space - outside		1		
N102	Space - Reception		1		
N103	Space - Birthing Rooms		1		
N104	Sense of Domesticity		1		
N105	Privacy		1		
N106	Noise Control		1		
N107	Universal Precautions		1		
	<b>Series Sub - Total</b>		<b>1</b>		
N200	Physical Support		2		
N201	Birthing Bath		2		
N202	En Suite Facilities		2		
	<b>Series Sub - Total</b>		<b>2</b>		
N300	Light		1		
N301	Colour		1		
N302	Texture		1		
N303	Indoor Environment		1		
N304	Femininity		1		
	<b>Series Sub - Total</b>				
N400	Food and Drink for Women		2		
N401	Accommodation for Companions		2		
	<b>Series Sub - Total</b>		<b>2</b>		
<b>TOTAL WEIGHTED SCORE</b>					