



CHERISH
Choosing Healthy Eating for Infant Health

Healthcare Professional Survey

Knowledge, attitudes and beliefs on infant feeding – initial findings



What was the survey for?

A key aim of this survey was to examine **healthcare professionals' (HCPs)** knowledge, attitudes and practices in relation to infant feeding.

The survey was conducted at two time points (T1 and T2): before and after HCPs completed CHERISH training. This training was provided to HCPs delivering the CHERISH intervention.

General Practitioners (GPs) and Practice Nurses completed the survey before and after attending two sessions of CHERISH training. HCPs' views on the training itself will be outlined in a separate factsheet.



Who completed the survey?

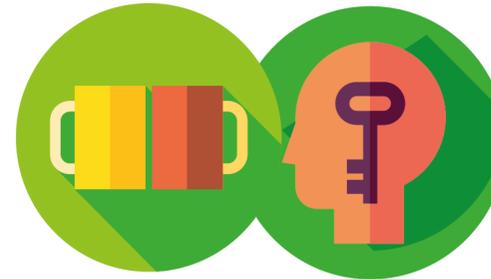
18 healthcare professionals completed the survey at both time points: 9 GPs and 9 Practice Nurses.

- **62%** of the HCPs have been qualified for over 20 years
- **88%** of the HCPs are parents themselves

SELECTED FINDINGS

Professional role

100% of HCPs considered infant feeding to be a part of their professional role at T2, compared with **87%** at T1



Sources of feeding information

The top 5 sources of infant feeding information reported by HCPs were as follows:

1. **HSE leaflets**
2. **Discussions with colleagues**
3. **Infant formula manufacturers' leaflets**
4. **Professional journals**
5. **The internet**

Timing of infant feeding discussion

- At T1, no HCPs reported discussing infant feeding with parents when infants were aged 4 and 6 months old
- At T2, **27%** of HCPs reported discussing infant feeding at these ages

Risks of early and late weaning

- At T1, HCPs were more likely to recognise the risk of early weaning (**60%**) than late weaning (**58%**)
- At T2, risks of early and late weaning were equally recognised (86.7%)

Commercial food and cup feeding

- At T1, **44%** of HCPs reported not recommending cup feeding, compared with **13.3%** at T2
- At both time points, **33.3%** of HCPs recommended the use of family foods, and **26.7%** said commercial foods were "okay in moderation"



The full data report from the CHERISH Healthcare Professional Survey will be available on the CHERISH website:

www.cherishstudy.com