

### 4.0 Breastfeeding

*Effective Date: 2/1/10*

#### 4.06 Issuance of Personal Use Electric Breast Pumps

**PURPOSE:** To implement Federal Regulations related to the issuance of personal use electric breastpumps. The purpose of this policy is to enable WIC clients to maintain breastfeeding and increase the duration of breastfeeding in special circumstances.

#### **A. POLICY:**

1. Breast pumps and/or attachment kits shall not be given prenatally to WIC clients.
2. To be eligible to receive a personal use electric breast pump (See Exhibit 4.06A), the client must meet the following criteria:
  - a. Be at least four weeks postpartum.
  - b. Be breastfeeding exclusive category in MI-WIC system, not receiving formula from the WIC program.
  - c. Be separated from the infant more than six hours at a time.
  - d. Be separated from the infant at least three days a week.
  - e. Reviews a pumping plan to continue breastfeeding during mother-infant separation. Refer to DCH-1201 Babies First: Breastfeeding and Work or School.
3. Reasons for issuing personal use electric breast pumps include:
  - a. Mother returning to work or school.
  - b. Other special circumstances that meet the criteria as determined by the Breastfeeding Coordinator.

Personal use electric pumps are not appropriate for problems associated with initiating breastfeeding, poor latch, or temporary breastfeeding issues such as engorgement or sore nipples.

4. Personal use electric breast pumps are not to be used as a replacement for putting the infant to breast.
5. Personal use electric breast pumps may be issued by the Breastfeeding Coordinator or other designated WIC staff who have completed Breastfeeding Basics and Milk Expression trainings. Staff must also be familiar with breastpump documentation requirements (See Policy 1.07 Local Agency Staffing, Policy 4.02 Breastfeeding Training and Policy 4.04 Breastfeeding Equipment Inventory and Maintenance).
6. Pumps must be distributed to WIC mothers who meet eligibility criteria at their time of need.
  - a. Breast pumps supplied by MDCH WIC Division must be given to WIC clients free of charge.

- b. Personal use electric breast pumps may not be given away in raffles, lotteries, or other similar forms of distribution.
  - c. Personal use electric breast pumps purchased with State funds may not be donated for any purpose.
7. The local agency shall not issue a personal use electric breast pump to a client at the same time as a multiple-user electric breast pump. The multiple-user electric breast pump must be returned to the WIC clinic before a personal use electric breast pump may be issued.
8. Local agency staff shall demonstrate hand expression of breastmilk using a breast model or balloon, for mothers, prior to pump issuance.
9. Before issuing a personal use electric breast pump, WIC staff shall train/discuss mothers on:
- a. A pumping plan to maintain the mother's milk supply when separated from her baby.
  - b. Assembly, use, and cleaning of the breast pump.
  - c. Handling and storage of human milk.
  - d. Who to contact if problems arise.

The WIC client should be able to perform a return demonstration of the proper assembly and use of the breast pump before leaving the local agency.

10. Documentation requirements for breast pump issuance include:
- a. Breast pump issuance must be documented on the appropriate MI-WIC screens.
  - b. A Single-User Breast Pump Release Agreement form must be completed and signed prior to release of the pump to the WIC client. A client's electronic signature will be obtained on the form and a copy printed for the client. If there is no access to a signature pad at the time of issuance the paper form must be used then scanned into the MI-WIC system (See Exhibit 4.06B).
  - c. Personal pumps issued using paper forms (i.e. Peer or MIHP) will be entered into the MI-WIC within 10 business days.
11. Local agencies shall not issue a replacement personal use electric breast pump until warranty information is verified and the client returns the broken or defective electric breast pump to the clinic (See Policy 4.04 Breastfeeding Equipment Inventory and Maintenance). The local agency will inform the State Breastfeeding Coordinator of any broken/defective pumps. The local agency shall contact the pump manufacturer to arrange replacement of a defective, returned pump.
12. Personal use electric pumps are single-user pumps and shall not be returned to the local agency for re-use by another person.

**B. GUIDANCE**

1. It is recommended that the Breastfeeding Coordinator or designee follow-up with the WIC client within 48 hours of pump issuance to determine if the pump is operating correctly and if she is experiencing any problems using the breast pump. Clients should be instructed to discontinue using the pump if discomfort occurs and contact the local agency immediately or by the next business day.
2. If no pumps are available, the local agency should refer WIC clients to providers who sell breast pumps such as breast pump manufacturers, private lactation consultants or durable medical equipment dealers. The local agency should provide manual expression education and ongoing breastfeeding support.
3. The local agency may use local funds to purchase spare parts for occasional repair of damaged breast pumps and attachment kits.

## References:

Federal Regulations 246.12 (n)(2), 246.13(a), 246.25  
USDA Policy Memorandum 95-15 Providing Breast Pumps to WIC Clients  
NAWD Position Paper: Guidelines for WIC Agencies Providing Breast Pumps, 97-003

## Cross-References:

1.07 Local Agency Staffing  
4.02 Breastfeeding Training  
4.04 Breastfeeding Equipment Inventory and Maintenance

## Exhibits:

4.06A Description of Personal Use Electric Breast Pumps  
4.06B Single-user Breast Pump Release Agreement