

4.0 Breastfeeding

Effective Date: 8/15/2022

4.06 Specialty Feeding Equipment

PURPOSE: To provide guidance to trained breastfeeding staff assisting the breastfeeding dyad with the use of temporary alternative methods of feeding should the infant be unable to sustain a latch, have unsuccessful milk transfer, be temporarily separated from the breastfeeding client, or require additional supplementation.

DEFINITIONS:

Specialty feeding equipment means a device used under the direction of a lactation professional to support breastfeeding when issues with feeding at the breast arise. Examples include, but are not limited to, supplemental/transitional nursing system, nipple shield, or cup.

A. POLICY:

1. Issuance

- a. The local agency must ensure that proper issuance, use, education, documentation, and follow-up care are completed for all clients issued specialty feeding equipment.
- b. Specialty feeding equipment must be issued by an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), IBCLC candidate or WIC staff who possess lactation management certification (e.g., CLS, CLC or CLE) and have completed Advanced Clinical Skills training. (See Policy 1.07, Local Agency Staffing and Training).
- c. Equipment may be issued after the following has been completed:
 - i. Breastfeeding dyad has been fully evaluated and other interventions have failed.
 - ii. Specialty feeding equipment documents have been reviewed to determine appropriate indications for use and procedures.
 - iii. Client-centered education has determined that the parent is willing to use and can properly demonstrate use of the specialty feeding equipment.
- d. Issuance of a specialty feeding device requires:
 - i. Providing instruction on using the specialty feeding equipment with an explanation emphasizing that the intervention is a *temporary* solution.
 - ii. Arranging a follow up appointment for the infant within one week, or more often if needed.
 - iii. Monitoring milk production while using a specialty feeding device.
 - iv. Referring client back to physician for any weight or medical issues.
 - v. Completion of an assessment and feeding plan.

2. Documentation

- a. All contacts must be documented in the client's record within two business days of consultation with the client and include a follow-up date.
- b. A feeding plan must be entered as a breastfeeding note or scanned into the client's record.
- c. Documentation of a feeding plan must include:
 - i. Indication for specialty feeding equipment.
 - ii. Type of specialty feeding equipment used.
 - iii. Infant's response to feeding equipment.
 - iv. Parent's ability to utilize specialty feeding equipment.
 - v. Method in which infant is being fed.
 - vi. Methods to protect client's milk supply.

Reference:

7 CRF 246.14(c)(10)

Guidance Documents

- [Feeding Cup](#)
- [Finger Feeding](#)
- [Silicone Nipple Shield](#)
- [Supplemental Nursing Systems](#)

Lauwers, J., Swisher, A. (2021). *Counseling the Nursing Mother: A Lactation Consultant's Guide* (7th edition). Jones and Bartlett Sudbury.

Lauwers, J. (2018). *Quick Reference for the Lactation Professional* (2nd edition). Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Lawrence, R.A., Lawrence R.M. (2016). *Breastfeeding: A Guide for the Medical Professional* (8th edition). St Louis: Mosby.

Mannel, R., Martins, P., Walker, M. (2013). *Core Curriculum for Lactation for lactation consultant Practice* (3rd edition). Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

USDA Breastfeeding Policy and Guidance. July 2016

5.2 Breastfeeding Aids and Accessories

5.3 Allowable WIC Breastfeeding Aids

Walker, M. (2017). *Breastfeeding Management for the Clinician, Using the Evidence* (4th edition). Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

Wambach, K. and Spencer, B. (2021). *Breastfeeding and Human Lactation* (6th edition). Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Cross-Reference:

1.07 Local Agency Staffing and Training