

MI-WIC POLICY

Breastfeeding

Effective Date: 2/1/10

4.0 Breastfeeding

4.07 Issuance of Manual Breast Pumps

PURPOSE: To implement Federal Regulations related to the issuance of manual breast pumps. 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 shall not be given prenatally to WIC clients.
2. Local agency staff shall demonstrate hand expression of breastmilk using a breast model or balloon, for mothers, prior to pump issuance.
3. Manual breast pumps (See Exhibit 4.07A) may be made available for:
 - a. Mothers who need help in resolving temporary breastfeeding issues such as engorgement, oversupply, plugged duct or other reasons determined by the Breastfeeding Coordinator.
 - b. Mothers who have infrequent separations from their infants.
4. Manual breast pumps are not to be used as a replacement for putting the infant to breast.
5. Manual breast pumps may be issued by the Breastfeeding Coordinator or other designated WIC staff that has completed Breastfeeding Basics and Milk Expression trainings. Staff must also be familiar with breast pump documentation requirements (See Policy 1.07 Local Agency Staffing, Policy 4.02 Breastfeeding Training and 4.04 Breastfeeding Equipment, Inventory and Maintenance).
6. Pumps must be distributed to WIC clients 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. Breast pumps may not be given away in raffles, lotteries, or other similar forms of distribution.
 - c. Breast pumps may not be donated for any purpose.
7. Before issuing a breast pump, WIC staff shall train clients using a demonstration kit. Training shall include:
 - a. Assembly, use, and cleaning of the breast pump.
 - b. Handling and storage of human milk.
 - c. 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.

8. 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. Manual pumps issued using paper forms (i.e. Peer or MIHP) will be entered into MI-WIC within 10 business days.
9. Manual breast 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 the client 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.

References:

- Federal Regulations 246.12 (n)(2), 246.13(a), 246.25
- USDA Policy Memorandum 95-15 Providing Breast Pumps to 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
- 4.06B Single-User Breast Pump Release Agreement

Exhibits:

- 4.07A Description of Manual Breast Pumps (Single-user)