

Breastfeeding Volume  
Peer Counseling Section

Referrals of Breastfeeding Participants (6.01500)

ER# 6.01500

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**POLICY:** The local WIC provider shall instruct peer counselors about the limitations of their services, circumstances for referrals, and documentation procedures.

**PROCEDURES:**

- A. Local Breastfeeding Peer Counseling (BFPC) Program Coordinator shall:
1. Assist peer counselors in referring a mother to a health care professional or community lactation expert when they express concerns about their infant's health or when the peer counselor suspects illness or unusual behavior.
  2. Provide materials on available referrals and information on hotline numbers for a variety of social service needs.
  3. Instruct on documentation procedures using MOWINS.
- B. Local BFPC Program Coordinator shall ensure that the peer counselor will contact them, the agency nutritionist or lactation expert in the following circumstances. (Refer How to Help Mothers with Breastfeeding Concerns in the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Manual):
1. The mother has delivered a premature or sick infant and is unable to begin breastfeeding following delivery.
  2. The infant is having difficulty latching on to the breast after several attempts and the mother has begun bottle-feeding.
  3. Infant has a nursing strike that lasts longer than 24 hours.
  4. The mother has decided to breastfeed, but her infant has been bottle-feeding since birth.
  5. The mother wants to breastfeed, but has been advised to discontinue or delay initiation in the hospital or after discharge by her health care provider.
  6. The mother wants to breastfeed and has a history of substance abuse or has a partner who is abusing drugs.
  7. The mother is breast and bottle-feeding her infant who is less than one month old.
  8. The mother is experiencing engorgement and comfort measures do not relieve the engorgement after 24 hours.
  9. Mother has been discharged from the hospital and reports fever or flu-like symptoms.
  10. The mother has breast tenderness or redness on one breast.
  11. The infant is having less than six wet diapers within a 24-hour period and the mother is nursing her infant at least eight times within a 24-hour period.

12. The mother has sore nipples, which have not been resolved within 24 hours by following common comfort measures.
13. The mother has cracked, bleeding or blistered nipples.
14. The mother has a chronic disease such as diabetes or epilepsy or any illness or condition requiring medications.
15. Mother is concerned about milk supply after simple measures have been tried.
16. Mother is concerned about excessive crying of her baby after calming techniques do not help.
17. Whenever the counselor is unsure about any situation and needs information and/or feedback about an interaction with a participant.