

2021 RECOMMENDATION UPDATE SUMMARY

Breastfeeding Services and Supplies

JANUARY 2022

WHAT DOES THE WPSI RECOMMEND?

For all pregnant and postpartum women:

Access to comprehensive lactation support services during the antenatal, perinatal, and postpartum periods

Access to breastfeeding equipment and supplies

HOW ARE COMPREHENSIVE LACTATION SUPPORT SERVICES DEFINED?

The WPSI defines comprehensive lactation support services as consultation, counseling, education by clinicians and peer support services, and breastfeeding equipment and supplies.

WHAT'S NEW?

The WPSI clarified the intent of the term “lactation support services” in the clinical recommendation to include **consultation**, counseling, education by **clinicians and peer support services**, and breastfeeding equipment and supplies in the clinical recommendation. The clinical recommendation also defines breastfeeding equipment and supplies.

HOW IS BREASTFEEDING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES DEFINED?

Breastfeeding equipment and supplies include, but are not limited to, double electric breast pumps (including pump parts and maintenance) and breast milk storage supplies. Access to double electric pumps should be a priority to optimize breastfeeding and should not be predicated on prior failure of a manual pump. Breastfeeding equipment may also include equipment and supplies as clinically indicated to support dyads with breastfeeding difficulties and those who need additional services.

WHAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOMMENDATION?

Lactation support services should be respectful, appropriately patient-centered, culturally and linguistically competent, and sensitive to those having difficulty with breastfeeding, regardless of the cause. Clinical lactation professionals providing clinical care include, but are not limited to, licensed lactation consultants, the IBCLC®, certified midwives, certified nurse-midwives, certified professional midwives, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and physicians. Lactation personnel providing counseling, education, or peer support include lactation counselors/breastfeeding educators, and peer supporters.

WHAT ARE OTHER RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS?

The USPSTF has issued recommendations on [primary care interventions in breastfeeding](#).

WHERE TO READ THE FULL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT?

Visit the WPSI website to read the [full recommendation](#). This includes more details on implementation considerations, research recommendations, and the full evidence summary

WHAT WPSI RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- [Well-Woman Chart](#)
- [Clinical Summary Tables](#)
- [Coding Guide](#)
- [Patient Education Materials](#)

ABBREVIATIONS:

WPSI = Women's Preventive Services Initiative

IBCLC = International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners

WPSI recommends and encourages access to and provision of respectful, gender-affirming, high-quality, and safe health care. Please see our [gender inclusivity statement](#) for more information.

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