

**Step 6: Collaborate with local agencies and health professionals to ensure continuity of care and breastfeeding support in the community.**

GUIDELINE	DESIRED OUTCOMES	ADVICE FROM THE FIELD	TOOLS & RESOURCES
<p><b>6A:</b> Identify and collaborate with local agencies and professionals to improve breastfeeding support, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designate an employee to develop, maintain, and update a list of local agencies, health professionals and other resources that support breastfeeding.</li> <li>2. Establish collaborative agreements and a referral system with written communication protocols and tools in order to interact with local agencies and health care professionals, such as the following: perinatal clinics, birthing hospitals, pediatric clinics, WIC programs, Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) in California, the local health department, telephone help lines, home health services, durable medical equipment (DME) providers, La Leche League and other community support groups that promote breastfeeding.</li> <li>3. Collaborate with Medi-Cal (Medicaid outside of California), health insurance plans and other payers of breastfeeding benefits to clarify reimbursable</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Clinic documents will include a list of local agencies and health professionals that support breastfeeding and that is reviewed and updated annually by the designated staff member.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Clinic documents will indicate the development and implementation of communication protocols and collaboration agreements with local agencies and health professionals, as described in Guideline 6A.</i></li> </ol>	<p>In addition to using current referral lists, effective breastfeeding support involves establishing relationships with community organizations. Communities that have succeeded with this have used simple strategies such as including community partners in regularly-scheduled meetings and arranging for staff to visit and observe services across programs. Over time, a continuum of care is established that provides an effective safety net for breastfeeding support.</p> <p>Health care reform should provide new opportunities for the provision of breastfeeding support, as part of ACA requirements. In many cases, health plan benefit details are not defined regarding lactation support, including breast pumps and supplies. Clinics can use their business relationship with health plans to play a critical role in negotiating for effective breastfeeding support. These efforts can also support other initiatives that relate to the Triple Aim or certifications such as Patient Centered Medical Homes efforts for quality of care.</p>	<p><b>Early Notification Referral Form</b> - Sacramento County WIC/Sutter Medical Center</p> <p><b>Hospital-Clinic-WIC-DME Referral Form</b> - California WIC Association</p> <p><b>WIC Referral Form for Pregnant/Postpartum/Breastfeeding Women</b> - California State WIC Program/CDPH</p> <p><b>Establishing a Community Breastfeeding Support Consortium</b> - CDPH COIN Collaborative</p> <p><b>Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program Community Assessment with External Partners</b> - California WIC Program (CDPH)</p> <p><b>Which WIC? Meeting Flyer, Tour Schedule, and Agency List</b> - San Joaquin County</p> <p><b>Community Breastfeeding Support Contact List</b> - CDPH COIN Collaborative</p> <p><b>First Steps: Breastfeeding Continuum of Care</b>-California WIC Association</p>

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breastfeeding services and equipment.			<i>Sample WIC Health Plan MOU</i>
<b>6B:</b> Communicate the established collaboration agreements and communication protocols at new employee orientation and annually thereafter to all appropriate clinic staff.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>At least 80% of randomly-selected appropriate clinic staff will be able to locate the list of local breastfeeding resources, communication protocols and collaboration agreements.</i></li> <li>2. <i>At least 80% of randomly-selected medical records show that breastfeeding mothers were appropriately referred and received specialized breastfeeding support services.</i></li> <li>3. <i>At least 80% of randomly-selected mothers who reported having difficulty breastfeeding will indicate that they received services from a trained lactation professional at the facility or were given a referral to see a lactation specialist at another agency.</i></li> </ol>		
<b>6C:</b> Communicate with local agencies, professionals and birthing hospitals regarding the content of breastfeeding education materials and counseling to ensure consistent, accurate and evidence-based information about breastfeeding and human milk across all venues in the	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Written collaboration agreements and communication protocols will address provision of consistent, accurate and evidence-based information about breastfeeding and human milk across all venues of the community.</i></li> </ol>	Hospitals across California and the nation, in an effort to improve breastfeeding policies and practices, have established local hospital breastfeeding consortia, where hospital staff meet to share their practices, challenges and successes in improving breastfeeding support.	<p><i>Best Fed Beginnings - National Institute for Children’s Health Quality</i></p> <p><i>Sample Meeting Schedule and Resources_- Regional Hospital Consortium of Los Angeles</i></p>

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community.		Community health centers could participate in their local consortium and/or collaborate between community health centers.	