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Joint Commission Approves Breastfeeding Measure

Oakbrook Village, IL—In a major step forward for public health, the group that accredits US hospitals will hold maternity hospitals accountable for the quality of care they provide to breastfeeding mothers and babies.

have shown that maternity care makes a huge difference for breastfeeding success.

The new measure, which is part of the Joint Commission's new Perinatal Care measure set, requires hospitals to report the rate of exclusive breastfeeding among mothers who intend to breastfeed. The measure does not affect women who do not plan to breastfeed. (cont. on back)

A recent CDC survey found that many US hospital routines

"This is one huge step for breastfeeding in the US," says Melissa Bartick, MD, Chair of the Massachusetts Breastfeeding Coalition. "This move will really help moms get the support they need in order to reach their own breastfeeding goals." Multiple studies



Notable News!!!

License to Nurse: My Mamma's Milk now has the state-issued Breastfeeding Licenses for anyone who wishes to have one. These licenses come in handy if someone asks you to leave because you are breastfeeding. Show them this license and the \$500 fine that they could incur for harassing you listed on the back.

Giant Postcards: Do you love to breastfeed? Do you support the goals of My Mamma's Milk? MMM has oversized breastfeeding support postcards for anyone who would like a few to hand out or place in their OBGYN / Pedi / Midwife's offices. Just email MMM and we will send them to you. And thanks for spreading the word! Boobs Are Best!



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Joint Commission Continued . . .



undermine mothers who want to breastfeed. Giving formula to healthy breastfed infants was common, despite evidence from multiple studies that babies who receive formula in the hospital wean earlier than those who do not.

More than half of US mothers wean their babies earlier than they want to, and their struggles begin with poor care during their maternity stay. "Mothers deserve high-quality support," Bartick said. This measure is expected to encourage hospitals to adopt a variety of measures to support breastfeeding mothers and infants. For example, breastfeeding in the first hour of life, skin to skin contact, and rooming-in all help promote exclusive breastfeeding.

The exclusive breastfeeding measure was pioneered as part of a quality improvement effort in California, where public health officials found huge differences in exclusive breastfeeding rates from hospital to

hospital. In some cases, nearly all breastfed infants were being supplemented with formula. In the top ranked hospitals, including San Francisco General Hospital, fewer than 10% of breastfed infants received supplements. Public reporting of differences in formula use has led hospitals to review their routines and improve quality of care.

The exclusive breastfeeding measure is one of 5 indicators that comprise the new perinatal core measure set. Other indicators include rates of cesarean section, elective delivery before 39 weeks, use of steroids for women at risk for preterm birth, and health care-associated infections in newborns.

The Joint Commission accredits US hospitals, and their measures have a strong influence on quality improvement priorities. Data collection is expected to begin in April 2010. – article from MASSBFC

ABOUT MY MAMMA'S MILK (MMM)...

My Mamma's Milk seeks to support the whole woman and child relationship. This includes breastfeeding, attachment parenting, baby-wearing, co-sleeping and earth conscious decisions. My Mamma's Milk is a member of several Breastfeeding Organizations and Advocacy Groups. MMM also work closely with midwives, doulas, IBCLCs and La Leche Leaders and funds Cape Cod Breastfeeding Moms (Facebook).