
Subject: Breastfeeding Equipment

Effective Date: October 1, 2016

Revised from: July 1, 2011

Policy: Breastpumps have been demonstrated to help breastfeeding mothers sustain breastfeeding for a longer duration. Local Agencies (LA) must consider several factors before incorporating distribution of breastpumps into program operations. These factors include:

- how providing pumps fits within the scope of breastfeeding promotion and support activities;
 - staff resources including time and skills;
 - breastfeeding referral sources within the community.
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- Breastpumps are not a universal need of breastfeeding mothers. Most women, in normal circumstances, can establish and maintain lactation without using a breastpump. For some women, hand expression meets the need to maintain comfort or express milk for later feeding. Hand expression or “hands on pumping” also increases the amount of milk mothers can obtain from pumping. **All WIC breastfeeding mothers should be taught hand expression.** The DVD “Making Enough Milk, The Key to Successful Breastfeeding...Planning for Day One” has been issued to every clinic to use for hand expression training. Clients should also be directed to the link for this training video.
<http://newborns.stanford.edu/Breastfeeding/HandExpression.html>

For other women, using a pump helps maintain comfort and/or extends breastfeeding duration. For a subset of women, a pump is necessary to establish lactation or maintain lactation during extended periods of separation between a mother and her baby.

Equipment is available to help breastfeeding participants with specific breastfeeding management problems. Equipment includes:

- Manual breastpumps;
- Electric breastpumps;
- Collection kits.
- Supplemental nursing systems

The purchase of manual breastpumps, electric breastpumps and collection kits are allowable with WIC funds. Contact the State Breastfeeding Coordinator before making **any** pump purchases.

Procedure:

1. The LA breastfeeding coordinator or designee is responsible for ordering and maintaining breastfeeding equipment and may delegate responsibilities as needed.
 - a. Call the State Breastfeeding Coordinator to request permission to order.

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- b. The State Breastfeeding Coordinator will determine if breastpump purchases will be reimbursed using SA or local funding.
- c. Purchase approved manual or electric breastpumps and/or collection kits following equipment selection guidelines in Appendix 8, Guide to Purchasing Equipment in the PPM.
 - For reimbursement with SA WIC funds, complete the [Breastpump Request for Reimbursement Form](#). Attach copies of the paid invoices and shipping costs and submit to the SA Breastfeeding Coordinator within 90 days of receiving the pumps. (Please note if ordering pumps in August or September reimbursement requests must be received by November 15 due to the closeout of the Federal Fiscal Year)
 - Do not put a reimbursement request using SA funds on your affidavit.
2. Breastpumps and/or collection kits are not to be stockpiled. Only order the amount estimated to be used for a maximum of six months.
 - An exception to this guideline might be a small LA which would estimate using less than a full case of breastpumps during a six month period.
 - A full case should be ordered to benefit from a reduced unit cost.
 - Small LA or subagencies should consider making purchases with adjacent LA or subagencies to be able to obtain a lower price. Only one LA may submit the reimbursement request.
3. All staff who issue pumps and clients who receive pumps must be instructed on hand expression and the proper use, assembly, and cleaning of breastfeeding equipment.
4. For distribution of breastpumps see policies [NED: 05.04.01 Manual Pumps](#), [NED:05.04.02 Electric Pumps](#), and [NED:05.04.03 Single User Electric Breastpumps](#).