
Subject: Breastfeeding Equipment

Effective Date: October 1, 2021

Revised from: October 1, 2019

Policy: Breastfeeding aids and accessories have been demonstrated to help breastfeeding mothers sustain breastfeeding for a longer duration. Local Agencies (LA) must consider several factors before incorporating distribution of breast pumps and other aids or accessories into program operations. These factors include:

- how providing these items fits within the scope of breastfeeding promotion and support activities;
- staff resources including time, skills, and scope of practice;
- breastfeeding referral sources within the community.

Breast pumps are not a universal need of breastfeeding mothers. Most women, in normal circumstances, can establish and maintain lactation without using a breast pump. 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 following links can be useful to send or show to clients for a visual demonstration of how to hand express:

- Stanford Medicine - <http://newborns.stanford.edu/Breastfeeding/HandExpression.html>
- Global Health Media (English video) - <https://globalhealthmedia.org/portfolio-items/how-to-express-breastmilk/>
- Global Health Media (Spanish video) - <https://globalhealthmedia.org/portfolio-items/como-extraer-leche-materna/?portfolioCats=199%2C134%2C16%2C33%2C75>
 - (Please note that Global Health Media provides many other language options for most of their videos. To access the Hand Expression resource in another language besides English or Spanish, visit the Global Health Media site, click on Our Videos at the top of the page, and then choose the language from the Choose Language drop down list.)

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.

Breast pumps are available to help breastfeeding participants with specific breastfeeding management problems. Equipment includes:

- Manual breast pumps;
- Electric breast pumps;
- Collection kits;
- Breast shields/flanges.

The purchase of manual breast pumps, electric breast pumps and collection kits are allowable with SA WIC funds. Contact the State Breastfeeding Coordinator before making **any** breastfeeding equipment purchases.

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- Other breastfeeding aids, such as supplemental nursing systems and nipple shields, are allowable WIC costs if used by trained staff in providing direct support and education and should be included in the LA budget and expenditures submitted using the standard affidavit procedure. For approval and ordering information, contact the State Breastfeeding Coordinator.
- Breastfeeding accessories, such as human milk storage bags, breast pump adaptors, certain nursing bras and nursing shawls or covers are allowable WIC costs and should be included in the LA budget and expenditures submitted using the standard affidavit procedure. For approval and ordering information, contact the State Breastfeeding Coordinator.
- Breastfeeding aids and accessories are a distinct and separate class of allowable costs and are not considered incentive items. Breastfeeding aids and accessories should be used in an intentional way as part of individualized counseling that meets clients' needs.

Reference: [Breastfeeding Policy and Guidance](#); CFR §246.14(b) (1)

Procedure:

1. The LA breastfeeding coordinator or designee is responsible for ordering and maintaining breastfeeding equipment and may delegate responsibilities as needed.
 - a. Email the State Breastfeeding Coordinator to request permission to order; include the brand, product name, quantity and price.
 - b. The State Breastfeeding Coordinator will determine if breastfeeding equipment purchases will be reimbursed with SA funds or if local funds are necessary.
 - c. Purchase approved manual or electric breast pumps, collection kits and breast shields/flanges following equipment selection guidelines in Appendix 8, Guide to Purchasing Equipment in the [PPM](#).
 - For reimbursement with SA WIC funds, complete the [Breast Pump 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.
 - If ordering breastfeeding equipment in March or April, reimbursement requests must be received by May 31st due to the closeout of the State Fiscal Year.
 - If ordering breastfeeding equipment in August or September, reimbursement requests must be received by November 15th due to the closeout of the Federal Fiscal Year.
 - d. Put all approved breastfeeding accessory and aid purchases (other than pumps, collection kits and breast shields/flanges) on your affidavit.

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2. Breast pumps, collection kits, breast shields/flanges and other breastfeeding aids and accessories 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 breast pumps during a six-month period.
 - A full case should be ordered to benefit from a reduced unit cost.
 - Small LAs or sub agencies should consider making purchases with adjacent LAs or sub agencies to be able to obtain a lower price. Only one LA may submit the reimbursement request.
3. All staff who issue breast pumps and clients who receive breast pumps must be instructed on hand expression and the proper use, assembly, and cleaning of breastfeeding equipment.
4. For distribution of breast pumps see policies [NED: 05.04.01 Manual Pumps](#), [NED:05.04.02 Electric Pumps](#), and [NED:05.04.03 Single User Electric Breast Pumps](#).