Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care in the District of Columbia

In 2007, CDC administered the first national **M**aternity **P**ractices in **I**nfant **N**utrition and **C**are ("mPINC") survey. All hospitals and birth centers in the U.S. that provide maternity care were invited to participate. This report describes specific opportunities to improve mother-baby care at hospitals and birth centers in the District of Columbia in order to more successfully meet national quality of care standards for perinatal care.

For more information about the mPINC survey, visit www.cdc.gov/mpinc

Changes in Maternity Care Practices Improve Breastfeeding Rates

Breastfeeding provides optimal nutrition for infants and is associated with decreased risk for infant morbidity and mortality as well as maternal morbidity.[1] Maternity practices in hospitals and birth centers can influence breastfeeding behaviors during a period critical to successful establishment of lactation.[2] The literature, including a Cochrane review, found that institutional changes in maternity care practices to make them more supportive of breastfeeding increased initiation and duration of breastfeeding.[3]

Strengths in Breastfeeding Support in District of Columbia Facilities

Pie chart of prevalence	Documentation of Mothers' Feeding Decisions	Staff at all (100%) facilities in the District of Columbia consistently ask about and record mothers' infant feeding decisions.	Standard documentation of infant feeding decisions is important to adequately support maternal choice.
Pie chart of prevalence	Availability of Prenatal Breastfeeding Instruction	Staff at all (100%) facilities in the District of Columbia include breastfeeding education as a routine element of their prenatal classes.	Prenatal education about breastfeeding is important because it provides mothers with a better understanding of the benefits and requirements of breastfeeding, resulting in improved breastfeeding rates.

Needed Improvements in District of Columbia Facilities

Pie chart of prevalence	Appropriate Use of Breastfeeding Supplements	Only 25% of facilities in the District of Columbia adhere to standard clinical practice guidelines against routine supplementation with formula, glucose water, or water.	The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Guidelines for Perinatal Care recommend against routine supplementation because supplementation with formula and/or water makes infants more likely to receive formula at home and stop breastfeeding prematurely.
Pie chart of prevalence	Adequate Assessment of Staff Competency	No (0%) facilities in the District of Columbia annually assess staff competency for basic breastfeeding management and support.	Implementing comprehensive assessment of staff training and skills for basic breastfeeding management and support establishes the foundation for quality infant feeding care. Adequate training and skills assessment are critical to ensure that mothers and infants receive care that is consistent, evidence-based, and appropriate.
Pie chart of prevalence	Protection of Patients from Formula Marketing	Only 50% of facilities in the District of Columbia adhere to clinical and public health recommendations against distributing formula company discharge packs.	Distribution of discharge packs contributes to premature breastfeeding discontinuation. The ACOG, AAP, American Public Health Association (APHA), and the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) all identify this practice as inappropriate in medical environments and recommend against it.
Pie chart of prevalence	Use of Combined Mother/Baby Postpartum Care	Only 50% of facilities in the District of Columbia report that most healthy full-term infants remain with their mothers for at least 23 hours per day throughout the hospital stay.	Mother-infant contact during the hospital stay helps establish breastfeeding and maintain infant weight, temperature, and health. Rooming-in increases breastfeeding learning opportunities and duration and quality of maternal sleep, and reduces supplemental feeds.

Breastfeeding is a National Priority

Breastfeeding protects mothers' and infants' health.[1] *Healthy People 2010*[4] includes breastfeeding as a national priority and it is recommended by a number of health professional organizations.[5]

Establishing evidence-based, breastfeeding-supportive maternity practices as standards of care in US hospitals and birth centers will help meet *Healthy People 2010* breastfeeding objectives and will help improve maternal and child health nationwide.

Department of Health and Human Services

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The CDC mPINC Survey

The CDC mPINC survey was mailed to all US maternity facilities, with the request that it be completed by the person most knowledgeable about the facility's maternity practices related to infant feeding and care.

57% of the 7 eligible hospitals and birth centers in the District of Columbia responded to the 2007 CDC mPINC survey.

Each participating facility received its facility-specific benchmark report in October 2008.

For more information about the mPINC survey, visit www.cdc.gov/mpinc

Results of the 2007 CDC mPINC Survey: District of Columbia

District of Columbia **Composite Quality Practice Score*:** 76
District of Columbia **State Rank[+]:** 5

mPINC Dimension of Care	Ideal Response to mPINC Survey Question	Percent of Facilities with Ideal Response[‡]	DC Rank[+]	DC Subscale Score* (out of 100)
Labor and Delivery Care				89
	Initial skin-to-skin contact is ≥30 min w/in 1 hour (vaginal births)	100	-	
	Initial skin-to-skin contact is ≥30 min w/in 2 hours (cesarean births)	100	-	
	Initial breastfeeding opportunity is w/in 1 hour (vaginal births)	75	75	
	Initial breastfeeding opportunity is w/in 2 hours (cesarean births)	33	29	
	Routine procedures are performed skin-to-skin	50	3	
Feeding of Breastfed Infants				80
	Initial feeding is breast milk (vaginal births)	75	20	
	Initial feeding is breast milk (cesarean births)	67	15	
	Supplemental feedings to breastfeeding infants are rare	25	15	
	Water and glucose water are not used	75	16	
Breastfeeding Assistance				90
	Infant feeding decision is documented in the patient chart	100	-	
	Staff provide breastfeeding advice & instructions to patients	75	50	
	Staff teach breastfeeding cues to patients	100	-	
	Staff teach patients not to limit suckling time	25	41	
	Staff directly observe & assess breastfeeding	100	-	
	Staff use a standard feeding assessment tool	100	-	
	Staff rarely provide pacifiers to breastfeeding infants	50	6	
Contact Between Mother and Infant				73
	Mother-infant pairs are not separated for postpartum transition	75	8	
	Mother-infant pairs room-in at night	67	26	
	Mother-infant pairs are not separated during the hospital stay	50	5	
	Infant procedures, assessment, and care are in the patient room	25	4	
	Non-rooming-in infants are brought to mothers at night for feeding	67	39	

mPINC Dimension of Care	Ideal Response to mPINC Survey Question	Percent of Facilities with Ideal Response‡	DC Rank+	DC Subscale Score* (out of 100)
Facility Discharge Care				53
	Staff provide appropriate discharge planning (referrals & other multi-modal support)	50	6	
	Discharge packs containing infant formula samples and marketing products are not given to breastfeeding patients	50	9	
Staff Training				71
	New staff receive appropriate breastfeeding education	0	45	
	Current staff receive appropriate breastfeeding education	25	27	
	Staff received breastfeeding education in the past year	75	2	
	Assessment of staff competency in breastfeeding management & support is at least annual	75	2	
Structural & Organizational Aspects of Care Delivery				80
	Breastfeeding policy includes all 10 model policy elements	0	48	
	Breastfeeding policy is effectively communicated	100	-	
	Facility documents infant feeding rates in patient population	75	7	
	Facility provides breastfeeding support to employees	100	-	
	Facility does not receive infant formula free of charge	25	5	
	Breastfeeding is included in prenatal patient education	100	-	
	Facility has a designated staff member responsible for coordination of lactation care	100	-	

* Facility practices in 7 dimensions of care ("subscales") contribute to the overall "Composite Quality Practice Score." Possible item, subscale, and overall scores range from 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest, best possible score.

+ State ranks range from 1 to 52, with 1 being the highest rank. In case of a tie, both states are given the same rank.

‡ Calculation excludes facilities' responses that indicate prevalence is "unknown" for the practice measured in a given item.

- State ranks are not shown for survey questions with 90% or more facilities reporting ideal responses.

Improvement is Needed in Maternity Care Practices and Policies in the District of Columbia

Many opportunities exist in the District of Columbia to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding mothers and infants. To take action on this critical need, consider the following:

- Examine District of Columbia regulations for maternity facilities and evaluate their evidence base; revise if necessary.
- Sponsor a District-wide summit of key decision-making staff at maternity facilities to highlight the importance of evidence-based practices for breastfeeding.
- Pay for hospital staff across the District of Columbia to participate in 18-hour training courses in breastfeeding.
- Establish links among maternity facilities and community breastfeeding support networks in the District of Columbia.
- Identify and implement programs within hospital settings—choose one widespread practice and adjust it to be evidence-based and supportive of breastfeeding.
- Integrate maternity care into related Quality Improvement efforts including:
    - Consistent delivery of optimal care
    - Improving patient flow
    - Improving patient experience & loyalty
    - Engaging physicians in a shared quality agenda
    - Increasing staff efficiency
    - Optimizing hospital-to-home transitions

- Develop a plan to ensure adherence to the Joint Commission's recently revised (July 2009) Perinatal Care Core Measure Set to include exclusive breastfeeding at discharge in hospital data collection starting with April 1, 2010, discharges.

Questions about the mPINC survey? Information about the mPINC survey, benchmark reports, scoring methods, and complete references available at: www.cdc.gov/mpinc For more information:

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[3] Fairbank L, O'Meara S, Renfrew MJ, Woolridge M, Snowden AJ, Lister-Sharp D. A systematic review to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to promote the initiation of breastfeeding. Health Technology Assessment 2000;4:1-171.
[4] US Dept of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2010 midcourse review. Washington, DC: US Dept of Health and Human Services; 2005. Available at http://www.healthypeople.gov/data/midcourse.
[5] Organizations including but not limited to: National Quality Forum; American Academy of Pediatrics; American Association of Family Physicians; American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses; American College of Nurse Midwives; Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine; American Public Health Association; World Health Organization.