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Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care in Alaska - 2011 mPINC Survey

This report provides data from the 2011 mPINC survey for Alaska. It describes specific opportunities to improve mother-baby care at hospitals and birth centers in Alaska 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

Breastfeeding is a National Priority: Breastfeeding is associated with decreased risk for infant morbidity and mortality as well as maternal morbidity (1), and provides optimal infant nutrition. *Healthy People 2020* (2) establishes breastfeeding initiation, continuation, and exclusivity as national priorities.

Changes in Maternity Care Practices Improve Breastfeeding Rates: Maternity practices in hospitals and birth centers can influence breastfeeding behaviors during a period critical to successful establishment of lactation (3). Abundant literature, including a Cochrane review, document that institutional changes in maternity care practices to make them more supportive of breastfeeding increased initiation and duration of breastfeeding (4).

Every two years, CDC administers the national Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey to all hospitals and birth centers in the U.S. that provide maternity care.

Data from this survey can be used to establish evidence-based, breastfeeding-supportive maternity practices as standards of care in hospitals and birth centers across the US. Improved care will help meet *Healthy People 2020* breastfeeding objectives and will help improve maternal and child health nationwide.

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Strengths in Breastfeeding Support in Alaska Facilities

Provision of Breastfeeding Advice and Counseling	Staff at 90% of facilities in Alaska provide breastfeeding advice and instructions to patients who are breastfeeding, or intend to breastfeed.	The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends pediatricians provide patients with complete, current information on the benefitsand methods of breastfeeding to ensure that the feeding decision is a fully informed one. Patient education is important in order to establish breastfeeding.
Documentation of Mothers' Feeding Decisions	Staff at85% of facilities inAlaska consistently ask about and record mothers' infant feeding decisions.	Standard documentation of infant feeding decisions is important to adequately support maternal choice.

Needed Improvements in Alaska Facilities

Appropriate Use of Breastfeeding Supplements	Only 58% of facilities in Alaska 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.
Adequate Assessment of Staff Competency	Only 16% of facilities in Alaska 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.
Adequate Assessment of Staff Competency	Only35% of facilities in Alaska 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.
Protection of Patients from Formula Marketing	Only68% of facilities in Alaska 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.

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Alaska Summary – 2011 mPINC Survey

Survey Method: At each facility, the person who is the most knowledgeable about the facility's maternity practices related to healthy newborn feeding and care completes the CDC mPINC survey.

Response Rate: 77% of the 26 eligible hospitals and birth centers in Alaska responded to the 2011 mPINC survey. Each participating facility received its facility-specific benchmark report in October 2012.

Alaska Composite Quality Practice Score: 78 (Quality Practice scores range from 0 to 100 for each question, dimension of care, facility, and state. The highest, best possible score for each is 100. Each facility and state's "Composite Quality Practice Score" is made up of subscores for practices in each of 7 dimensions of care.)

Alaska State Rank: 8 (Ranks range from 1 to 52, with 1 being the highest rank. In the case of a tie, both are given the same rank. 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 Alaska: Many opportunities exist to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding mothers and infants in Alaska. Potential opportunities:

- Examine Alaska regulations for maternity facilities and evaluate their evidence base.
- Sponsor an Alaska-wide summit of key decision-making staff at maternity facilities to highlight the importance of evidence-based practices for breastfeeding.
- Encourage and support hospital staff across Alaska to be trained in providing care that supports mothers to breastfeed.
- Establish links among maternity facilities and community breastfeeding support networks in Alaska.
- Implement evidence-based practices in medical care settings across Alaska that support mothers' efforts to breastfeed.
- Integrate maternity care into related hospital-wide Quality Improvement efforts across Alaska.
- Promote utilization of the Joint Commission's Perinatal Care Core Measure Set including exclusive breast milk feeding at hospital discharge in Alaska hospital data collection systems.

References

1. Ip S, Chung M, Raman G, et al. Breastfeeding and maternal and infant health outcomes in developed countries. Rockville, MD: US Dept of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2007.
2. US Dept of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2020 Summary of Objectives: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health. Available at http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/pdfs/MaternalChildHealth.pdf
3. DiGirolamo AM, Grummer-Strawn LM, Fein S. Maternity care practices: implications for breastfeeding. Birth 2001;28:94-100.
4. 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.

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: Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA USA

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mPINC Dimension of Care	AK Quality Practice Subscore	Ideal Response to mPINC Survey Question	Percent of Facilities with Ideal Response	AK Rank
Labor and Delivery Care	61			
		Initial skin-to-skin contact is ≥30 min w/in 1 hour (vaginal births)	70	9
		Initial skin-to-skin contact is ≥30 min w/in 2 hours (cesarean births)	73	2
		Initial breastfeeding opportunity is w/in 1 hour (vaginal births)	75	5
		Initial breastfeeding opportunity is w/in 2 hours (cesarean births)	36	46
		Routine procedures are performed skin-to-skin	50	9
Feeding of Breastfed Infants	77			
		Initial feeding is breast milk (vaginal births)	85	11
		Initial feeding is breast milk (cesarean births)	82	9
		Supplemental feedings to breastfeeding infants are rare	58	2
		Water and glucose water are not used	90	---
Breastfeeding Assistance	78			
		Infant feeding decision is documented in the patient chart	85	52
		Staff provide breastfeeding advice & instructions to patients	90	---
		Staff teach breastfeeding cues to patients	95	---
		Staff teach patients not to limit suckling time	65	8
		Staff directly observe & assess breastfeeding	95	---
		Staff use a standard feeding assessment tool	0	36
		Staff rarely provide pacifiers to breastfeeding infants	100	---
Contact Between Mother and Infant	60			
		Mother-infant pairs are not separated for postpartum transition	95	---
		Mother-infant pairs room-in at night	100	---
		Mother-infant pairs are not separated during the hospital stay	95	---
		Infant procedures, assessment, and care are in the patient room	0	36
		Non-rooming-in infants are brought to mothers at night for feeding	100	---
Facility Discharge Care	36			
		Staff provide appropriate discharge planning (referrals & other multi-modal support)	35	12
		Discharge packs containing infant formula samples and marketing products are not given to breastfeeding patients	68	14
Staff Training	61			
		New staff receive appropriate breastfeeding education	7	36
		Current staff receive appropriate breastfeeding education	7	47
		Staff received breastfeeding education in the past year	39	40
		Assessment of staff competency in breastfeeding management & support is at least annual	35	46
Structural & Organizational Aspects of Care Delivery	70			
		Breastfeeding policy includes all 10 model policy elements	16	28
		Breastfeeding policy is effectively communicated	56	49
		Facility documents infant feeding rates in patient population	70	25
		Facility provides breastfeeding support to employees	55	44
		Facility does not receive infant formula free of charge	55	1
		Breastfeeding is included in prenatal patient education	75	52
		Facility has a designated staff member responsible for coordination of lactation care	55	48