



SB 402 (De León)

Successful Breastfeeding Practices in Perinatal Hospitals

“Addressing health inequities for infants and children”

PURPOSE: Achieve health equity for new mothers and their children by requiring all perinatal hospitals in California to implement the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding recommended by the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative.

BACKGROUND:

Evidence indicates that early infant feeding practices can affect later growth and development in children, while significantly reducing their risk for infections and chronic diseases such as diabetes, asthma and obesity. **Although nearly 90 percent of California mothers enter the hospital intending to breastfeed, only about 50 percent leave the hospital breastfeeding exclusively.**

This disparity is a health equity issue since many of the hospitals that have low or very low exclusive breastfeeding rates are in areas that serve low-income women. Exclusive breastfeeding rates increase when hospitals keep mothers and babies together; encourage feeding shortly after birth; provide staff with education for breastfeeding support; and avoid unnecessary formula supplementation.

Title 22 Regulations (first adopted in 1969 and last amended in 1989) require General Acute Care Hospitals to adopt a written breastfeeding policy, but many hospitals do not have such policies in place. According to the California WIC Association (CWA), 14 out of the 22 lowest performing hospitals, those with the highest formula supplementation rates, do not have a breastfeeding policy.

The United States Surgeon General and all of the major health organizations recommend exclusive breastfeeding for most babies for the first six months and continued breastfeeding until one year of age, with the addition of appropriate foods, unless specifically contraindicated. The Centers for Disease Control’s benchmarks suggest that 10 percent or fewer of breastfeeding infants should receive supplemental formula. However, according to 2009 data presented in a CWA report, “One Hospital at a Time, Overcoming Barriers to Breastfeeding,” January 2011 --

fewer than 10 percent of California hospitals reached this goal. In eight California hospitals, at least 90 percent of the breastfed infants are given supplemental formula during their hospital stay.

In addition to the health benefits for mothers and their infants, there are significant cost savings associated with higher breastfeeding rates. A 2010 Harvard study found that the United States would save \$13 billion per year if 90 percent of infants were breastfed exclusively for six months. In April 2010, the Joint Commission, the accreditation organization for hospitals, began including exclusive breastfeeding rates as part of its Perinatal Care core evaluation indicators for maternity hospitals.

In 2011, SB 502 (Pavley & De León) was signed into law (Ch.511, Statutes of 2011). That bill implements step one of the “Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding” as adopted by Baby Friendly USA. SB 502 requires all perinatal hospitals in California to have an infant feeding policy in place by January 1, 2014.

PROPOSAL:

- Require all perinatal hospitals in California by January 1, 2025 to implement all Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding as adopted by Baby Friendly USA per the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative.
- Hospitals would have the option to adopt an alternate process adopted by a health care service plan that includes evidence-based policies and practices and targeted outcomes, or the Model Hospital Policy Recommendations recognized by the State Department of Public Health.

SUPPORT: CA WIC Association (Sponsor), Alameda County Breastfeeding Coalition, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Red Cross WIC Program, BreastfeedLA, Breastfeeding Coalition of Kern County, Breastfeeding Coalition of Nevada County, Breastfeeding Coalition of Santa Cruz County, Breastfeeding Coalition of San Diego County, Breastfeeding Coalition of San Joaquin County, Breastfeeding Coalition of Solano County, California Academy of Preventative Medicine, California Association of Food Banks; California Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses; California Black Health Network, California Breastfeeding Coalition, California Center for Public Health Advocacy, California Conference of Local Health Department Nutritionists, California Food Policy Advocates, California Health Collaborative, California Hospital Association, California Medical Association, California Nurses Association, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network, Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas, Clinica Sierra Vista; Community Resource Project, Inc.; Confident Childbirth-Lamaze, County Health Executives Association of California, Delta Health Care, E Center, Family HealthCare Network, First 5 Association of California, First 5 Fresno County,

First 5 Yolo, Children and Families Commission, Fresno County Department of Public Health, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, Fresno EOC WIC Program, Health Officers Association of California, Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, Hunger Action Los Angeles, Junior Leagues of California, Kaiser Permanente, Kern County Call to Action Healthcare Working Group, La Clinica de La Raza WIC Program, Labor Projects for the Working Families, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Maternal and Child Health Access; Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Action; MomsRising, Mono County WIC Program, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, Mothers' Milk Bank, Native American Breastfeeding Council, Planned Parenthood WIC, Prevention Institute, Public Health Foundation Enterprises WIC Program, Public Health Institute; Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc.; San Bernardino County Department of Public Health WIC Program, San Francisco Food Security Task Force, San Luis Obispo County WIC Program, San Mateo Breastfeeding Advisory Committee, Solano County Public Health WIC Program, Sonoma County Department of Health Services, Southern California Consortium of WIC Program Directors, Strategic Alliance for Healthy Food and Activity Environments, Tulare Regional Medical Center, Tulare County Breastfeeding Coalition, Ventura County Public Health, Watts Healthcare Corporation, Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program and 62 individuals.

OPPOSITION: *None on file.*

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