



# Referral Protocol & Formula Requests for Breastfeeding Mom *in the* First Month

## *Referral Protocol*

These mothers and babies should be referred to a lactation consultant or registered dietitian for assessment today.

## *Breastfeeding Mom*

- HIV positive
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Chemotherapy agents
- Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C
- Active tuberculosis
- Mastitis (breast infection)
- Severe breast engorgement
- Diabetes
- Breastfeeding multiples
- Low milk supply
- Cracked, bleeding nipples or severe pain

## *Breastfeeding Baby*

- Galactosemia
- PKU
- Jaundice
- Hypoglycemia
- Latch problems/ weak or ineffective suck
- Slow weight gain or greater than 7 percent weight loss
- Very low birth weight
- Premature
- Oral defects
- Has less than 6-8 wet diapers per day
- Feeds less than 8 times per day

## *Formula Requests*

A breastfeeding mother of an infant comes into the clinic during the baby's first month and is already supplementing her baby with formula for non-medical reasons.

## *Sample Dialogue*

It is great that you are breastfeeding your baby. Can you tell me more about why you are also giving your baby formula?

What makes you think you don't have enough milk?

What are your breastfeeding goals?

Address concerns. Discuss with her why giving only breastmilk in the first month is important and how giving formula interferes with breastmilk production. Offer her a chance to speak with a lactation specialist or nutritionist and other breastfeeding support services (pumps, BF food package, etc).

If mom still requests formula, let her know she will be receiving the food package with the least amount of food and her baby will receive some formula. Place a family hold to reassess mom and baby next month.