

338 Pregnant Woman Currently Breastfeeding

Definition/Cut-off Value

Breastfeeding woman now pregnant.

Participant Category and Priority Level

Category	Priority
Pregnant Women	I

Justification

Breastfeeding during pregnancy can influence the mother's ability to meet the nutrient needs of her growing fetus and nursing baby. Generally, pregnancy hormones cause the expectant mother's milk supply to drastically decline (until after delivery). If the mother conceived while her nursing baby was still solely or predominantly breastfeeding, the baby could fail to receive adequate nutrition. In addition to changes in milk volume and composition, mothers who breastfeed throughout a pregnancy usually report that their nipples, previously accustomed to nursing, become extremely sensitive (presumably due to pregnancy hormones). When women nurse through a pregnancy it is possible that oxytocin released during breastfeeding could trigger uterine contractions and premature labor. When a mother chooses to nurse through a pregnancy, she needs breastfeeding counseling.

References

1. Mohrbacher N, Stock J, La LL, I. The breastfeeding answer book. Schaumburg, Ill: La Leche League International, 1997.