

**SECTION: BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION AND SUPPORT**

**SUBJECT: Lactation Support Equipment**

**ITEM: Breast Pumps: Overview**

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## Policy

To enable Women, Infants and Children (WIC) participants with special circumstances to initiate breastfeeding and increase the duration of breastfeeding, the local agency (LA) shall have a breast pump loan program to support breastfeeding WIC mothers at all full-time sites. The LA shall have a breast pump policy specific to their LA, which complies with the State Agency (SA) policy. LAs shall:

- provide breast pumps and [milk collection kits](#) to WIC participants who need to establish or maintain their milk supply;
- maintain an inventory of breast pumps and milk collection kits; and
- keep all pumps and milk collection kits in a secure location.

## Required Procedures

### I. General

#### A. The LA shall:

1. assess the individual needs of the participant prior to issuing an appropriate pump;
2. only issue pumps when there is a need for a pump and only when the woman is postpartum;
3. allow use of breast pumps and milk collection kits free of charge and without a monetary deposit;
4. utilize a system of prioritized criteria for breast pumps when supply of pumps is limited;
5. train direct service staff in the use and distribution of breast pumps, according to WPM 190-00;
6. ensure direct service staff are available to issue pumps promptly, within one business day of established need;

7. designate trained staff to answer participants' questions about breastfeeding, however all staff who directly serve participants shall be able to answer basic breastfeeding questions;
  8. allocate sufficient staff hours for managing, approximately 0.5 full time equivalents (FTEs) per every 100 electric breast pumps;
- B. The LA shall not accept returned single user pumps or milk collection kits for reuse.

## II. Specifics for Issuance

- A. When issuing a breast pump, staff trained to distribute pumps shall:
1. demonstrate the assembly and use of the pump and milk collection kit and provide instructions for cleaning;
  2. assess the understanding of the participant by having the participant:
    - a. demonstrate assembly, use and verbally explain how to clean the pump and kit;
    - b. explain proper milk storage guidelines;
    - c. describe how she will establish and/or maintain milk supply; and
    - d. describe when to seek help and who to contact if questions arise;
  3. follow up with electric pump recipients:
    - a. contact participants within 72 hours of a single user or multi-user pump issuance to assess any need for breastfeeding support;
    - b. refer, if needed, to local support services; and
    - c. document the contact according to LA protocol;

## III. Inventory

- A. To control the supply of breast pumps, the LA:
1. shall not issue a [single-user electric breast pump](#) and [multi-user electric breast pump](#) to a participant at the same time. The multi-user electric breast pump shall be returned to the clinic before a single-user electric pump may be issued. A single-user electric breast pump may be issued the same day a multi-user electric pump is returned, if it is determined the participant needs the pump to maintain her milk supply;
  2. shall document in the Integrated Statewide Information System (ISIS), on the family comments screen, that the participant received a breast pump. See WPM 620-20 for more detail about multi-user pump documentation; and

3. shall store breast pumps, collection kits, and other breastfeeding aids in an area not accessible to participants and in a secure space that is locked at the end of the business day.

#### IV. Employee use of Pumps

- A. See WIC Program Manual (WPM) 600-30.

### Guidelines

#### I. The LA should:

- A. refer a participant to their BPC Program, if the program is available;
- B. observe participants expressing milk with the electric pump on site when needed; and
- C. hire or contract with an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) whose time is designated to provide staff and participant support.

### Definitions

**Milk Collection Kits** – a personal use kit given to WIC mothers consisting of tubing and bottles that come in contact with milk while pumping. Milk Collection Kits are to be cleaned and reused by the original user only.

**Multi-user Electric Breast Pump** – a pump that has the FDA’s approval for use by multiple women. A pump of high quality, used to increase and establish milk supply. The pump operates on a “closed system,” meaning milk does not reach the motor and pass milk from one user to the next.

**Single-user Breast Pump** – an electric or manual pump that is meant for repeated use by only one woman. Due to possible contamination with any previous pump owner’s milk, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the device only for the original user.

### Resources

*California WIC Training Manual*

### Authority

7 CFR 246.11 (c) (7) (iii) and (iv),

7 CFR 246.14 (b) (1) (iii)

WIC Nutrition Services Standards 13 D (5)

WRO All States Memorandum 95-138, 99-92 and 94-107