PURPOSE:
Provides information Breastfeeding Peer Counseling (BPC) contacts.

POLICY:
I. All local agencies (LA) with a BPC Program must ensure Peer Counselor (PC) contact with the participants assigned to them, as stated in this policy.

PROCEDURE(S):
I. Frequency of Contacts
   A. The LA must meet the following minimum contact frequency intervals:
      1. Prenatal women:
         b. At a minimum by the third trimester.
         c. Every 1-2 weeks in the last month before the expected delivery date.
      2. Postpartum women:
         a. Every 2-3 days in the first week postpartum.
         b. Within 24 hours if the mother reports a problem with breastfeeding and again until the problem is resolved.
         c. Weekly for the rest of the first month postpartum.
         d. 1-2 weeks before returning to work or school and 2-3 days after she starts back to work or school.
         e. Monthly for infants from 1 to 6 months of age.

II. Communication
   A. The LA staff must ensure that BPC Program participant contacts are two-way interactions which can include by telephone, in person, in a hospital, at home, or electronically.
   B. The LA staff must have a policy regarding confidentiality, safety and social etiquette for staff and participants if using electronic communication or social media associated with the BPC Program.

III. Documentation
   A. The BPC Program staff must document all contacts in the Peer Counselor Database (PCDB) on a daily basis. If internet access is not available, the PCs
must use hardcopy screen prints of the PCDB and input data into the PCDB as soon as internet access is available or at least within 2 business days.

B. The LA staff must ensure that incomplete or attempted contacts that are not two-way and do not meet contact frequency requirements, are logged in the PCDB as a comment.

DEFINITION(S):
Contact – a two-way interaction between a PC and a BPC Program participant verbally, face-to-face or electronically.

AUTHORITY:
All State Memorandum (ASM) 04-27 – Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Grants/Training, April 8, 2004
Loving Support© Frequently Asked Questions 2011
Loving Support© Model for a Successful Peer Counseling Program
Allowable Costs for Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Funds, USDA November 2011.