

Subject: Breast Pump Distribution

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Objective:

To ensure THA Post-partum mothers who plan to Breastfeed and eventually return to work, receive a Breast Pump prior to discharge from Tuality Community Hospital. These efforts will consist of a collaboration between TCH Lactation Services, Tuality Medical Equipment Supplies (TMES) and THA. Breast pumps have been approved by THA for distribution to OHP members.

Definition:

A breast pump is a device used for drawing milk from a woman's breast by suction. It is used to help breastfeeding mothers maintain a healthy milk supply for their infants. Breast pumps are especially important for women who plan to return to work while breastfeeding an infant. THA will support this effort by providing a breast pump to our members who wish to continue the healthy practice of breastfeeding, while seeking and/or maintaining gainful employment.

There are a variety of breast pump models, but THA will be covering Medela breast pumps, both the Pump-in-Style and Hospital Grade Symphony. For healthy term infants, the Pump-in-Style pump is a very convenient portable pump, that will assist mothers in maintaining a healthy milk supply while working. For preterm infants (< 34 wks gestation), the Symphony hospital grade pump will be distributed for rental for a period of 30 days to build milk supply. After a healthy milk supply is established, the mother will be given a Pump-in-Style for maintenance of milk supply.

Policy:

- I. THA supports and encourages the healthy practice of breastfeeding by our new mothers. Breast milk contains antibodies that help new babies fight off viruses and bacteria. Breastfeeding lowers the infant's risk of having asthma, allergies, ear infections, and diarrhea. The long-term benefits also extend to the breastfeeding mother, by burning extra calories and releasing the hormone oxytocin, which helps the uterus return to its pre-pregnancy size and may reduce uterine bleeding after birth. Women who breastfeed have been shown to be less likely to develop osteoporosis, and breast, uterine, endometrial or ovarian cancer.
- II. To support this effort, THA will work closely with TCH Lactation Services and TMES to distribute breast pumps to all new mothers who wish to breastfeed and, eventually, return to work.

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III. Initiation of this process is as follows:

- THA members in the TCH Birth Center, either pre-delivery or postpartum, are identified by Lactation Services, as showing interest in breastfeeding their newborn(s).
- Breastfeeding education is initiated by Lactation Services.
- If the mother wishes to return to work after medical clearance, the Lactation Nurse will complete the THA Breast Pump Order Form and fax it to TMES @ 503-681-1652.
- Upon delivery of the pump from TMES, the Lactation Nurse will educate the new mother on its proper use and maintenance. The teaching must be completed prior to discharge.
- The member must sign the receipt form provided by TMES.
- If the new mother is transferred to a higher level of care at another facility, the breast pump will travel with her.
- Should the member break or lose the breast pump, replacement is *not guaranteed*. All cases will be assessed individually by THA Case Management.
- The member will keep in close contact with Lactation Services so questions and concerns can be addressed in a timely manner.

References:

Medela Website
WebMD
NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council)
Oregon Health Authority – Working to Create a Community that Supports Breastfeeding
Tuality Medical Equipment Supply (TMES)
TCH Birth Center Lactation Services

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Revised	