

STEP 9: Give no artificial nipples or pacifiers to breastfeeding infants.

Recommendations

Develop a breastfeeding policy that specifically states that all breastfed infants should be cared for without the use of bottle feedings. Specify within this policy that infants who require any fluid supplementation (whether medically indicated or following informed decision by the mother) are given supplementation by tube, syringe, spoon, or cup in preference to a bottle.

Ensure that all breastfed infants are cared for without the use of pacifiers with the possible exceptions:

- short periods of time during painful procedures when the infant cannot be safely breastfed
- infant is being tube fed in the Intensive Care Unit
- alternative specific medical reasons exists (e.g., baby experiencing excessive sucking due to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome)

When pacifiers are used for painful procedures, ensure that they are removed from the crib and discarded prior to the infant's return to the family's room.

Educate breastfeeding mothers about how the use of bottles and artificial nipples may interfere with the successful initiation and continuation of breastfeeding.

Educate breastfeeding mothers to withhold use of bottles or pacifiers until their babies are at least one month of age and/or until after breastfeeding is fully established.

In the setting of a mother who requests that her baby be given a bottle or pacifier, ensure that staff:

- explore reasons for request with mother
- address concerns raised by the mother
- review the risks of introducing an artificial nipple or bottle including potential consequences to success of breastfeeding
- discuss alternative methods for soothing and/or feeding her baby
- document counseling provided and the mother's informed decision in the infant's medical record

