Best Practice Recommendations for Pregnancy Care

“The Best Health and Care for Moms and Babies”

June 2015

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Acknowledgements

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Polly Taylor, CNM, MPH, ARNP – WA State Dept. of Health
Lauri Turkovksy - WA State Dept. of Social and Health Services
Cathy Wasserman, PhD – WA State Dept. of Health
Derek Weaver, DO - private practice in Grandview
Karen Wells, MD – EvergreenHealth
Special thanks to these organizations for their collaboration and support.

Supporting Organization Partners:
American College of Nurse Midwives – WA affiliate
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners United of WA State
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Foundation for Health Care Quality – OB COAP
Foundation for Healthy Generations
March of Dimes
Midwives Association of Washington State
Northwest Organization of Nurse Executives
Planned Parenthood - Great Northwest
Planned Parenthood - Greater WA and North Idaho
Seattle University College of Nursing
University of WA School of Nursing
WA Academy of Family Physicians
WA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
WA State Department of Health
WA State Health Care Authority
WA State Medical Association
WA State Nurses Association
WA State Perinatal Collaborative
WithinReach
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Overview

Call to Action

The U.S. is the only developed nation with a rising maternal mortality rate\(^i\), and severe maternal morbidities are increasingly common in recent decades\(^ii\). Our infant mortality rate and preterm birth rate are higher than in most developed countries\(^iii, iv\). These facts persist even though the total amount spent on health care in the U.S. is greater than in any other country\(^v\), with childbirth being one of the highest areas of hospitalization costs\(^vi\). Although Washington State compares favorably to national averages, disparities between sub-populations and suboptimal care scenarios persist, and women and babies continue to suffer preventable morbidity and mortality\(^vii\).

Through the Safe Deliveries Roadmap initiative, the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) and its partners aim to improve maternal and infant outcomes by establishing and promoting evidence-based* best practices for care across four phases of the perinatal continuum:

- Pre-pregnancy
- Pregnancy
- Labor and Delivery
- Postpartum

About the Safe Deliveries Roadmap Recommendations

The recommendations are universally relevant for all women and newborns. Recommendations for care specific to select special populations (those with certain health conditions or making certain health-related choices) that are relatively common or likely to be subject to variations in current care practices are also included in the “Special Considerations” sections throughout. Physical examinations, patient health self-assessments, and complete health and family history-taking are established as foundations of primary care, and therefore are not specified in these recommendations.

The recommendations are aspirational – they outline the ideal care for optimal health outcomes. They are meant to be adaptable to the changing healthcare landscape. New care models such as team approaches and telemedicine may support implementation of the recommended practices.

References:


The recommendations, tips, tools and resources provided in this toolkit reflect the best evidence as of 2014 and the input of expert clinicians and leaders in health care delivery and public health with expertise in women’s health, obstetrics, midwifery, neonatology, pediatrics, family practice, and health promotion. They will be reviewed and updated as evidence changes, with a full review planned every 2-3 years.

* The Society for Maternal and Fetal Medicine’s grading system ([http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(13)00744-8/fulltext](http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(13)00744-8/fulltext)) was used as a model; recommendations meeting any level of evidence were allowed to be included.

**Vision for the Future**

- Women and their families are informed on and engaged in care related to the topics covered by these recommendations.
- Providers and healthcare systems identify and meet each patient’s needs to optimize health outcomes.
  - Care is always culturally appropriate and relevant to each patient. (i.e. Services are responsive to patients’ gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, stage, cognitive ability, language, and cultural beliefs.)
- All women and infants have access to care through coverage and primary care medical/health homes.
- Health equity and social determinants of health are addressed to enable optimal health attainment.

**Summary of Pregnancy Care Recommendations**

1. **Gestational Age**
   - Establish gestational age by 8 week ultrasound and/or accurate last menstrual period.

2. **Family Planning**
   - Determine the patient’s desire to continue or end the pregnancy, and counsel on all choices, as appropriate.
   - Refer to abortion or adoption services per patient preference in a timely manner.
   - Counsel on making a reproductive life plan.
   - Educate on planning the next pregnancy.
   - Counsel on selection of a postpartum contraceptive method prior to delivery.

3. **Care Timing and Transitions**
   - Complete the first prenatal visit at 6-8 weeks gestation or as soon as possible thereafter. In this visit, take a complete history, perform risk assessment, make referrals and provide education.
   - Provide referrals to specialty care and other support services, including home visiting, as needed.
   - Ensure that the patient identifies a newborn care provider before delivery.
   - Transmit prenatal records to the delivery facility in a timely manner (no later than 36 weeks).

4. **Pregnancy Loss Care**
   - *Recommendations for special populations only – see Section 4.*

5. **Family History**
   - At the first prenatal visit, take a family history to identify those with risk factors for preterm birth, birth defects, and obstetrical complications.
   - Counsel on genetic risks and the availability of carrier-specific screening, and test or refer to genetic counselor as appropriate.

6. **Mental Health**
• At the first prenatal visit and in the third trimester, assess patient’s history and family history of mental illness/mood disorders.
• At the first prenatal visit and in the third trimester, screen for mental illness/mood disorders using a validated tool.
• Counsel on wellness care for mental health.

7. Medications
• At the first prenatal visit, determine the patient’s current use of prescription, over-the-counter, and herbal treatments. Assess any problematic use or interactions, including drug-nutrient interactions, and counsel on teratogenicity risk and on any changes needed.
• Change to safer medication options, as needed.
• Check the Prescription Monitoring Program list of controlled substance prescriptions at least once during pregnancy, and counsel accordingly.

8. Toxic Environmental Exposures
• At the first prenatal visit, assess the patient’s exposure to hazardous toxins at home/work, including via cohabitants' exposure. Counsel on risk reduction strategies.
• Counsel women to avoid potential sources of lead.

9. Oral Health
• At the first prenatal visit, take an oral health history.
• Consider performing a brief oral health exam as part of full exam - look for swollen, bleeding gums, untreated decay, mucosal lesions, infection.
• Educate the patient on oral health self-care: emphasize brushing with fluoridated tooth paste twice daily and flossing daily; educate that chewing gum with xylitol 4-5 times per day and using cavity-reducing mouth rinses with chlorhexidine is protective and safe.
• Educate that maternal oral health can affect pregnancy outcomes and potential tooth decay in young children; bacteria that lead to tooth decay are infectious and can cross the placenta and can be transmitted to a baby/child via saliva sharing.
• Refer for and encourage the most appropriate oral health care. Recommend dental cleaning in the 2nd trimester.
• Educate that dental x-rays and use of nitrous oxide at lower dose and commonly used medications are safe in pregnancy.
• As appropriate, educate that the high acidity of frequent vomiting can be neutralized with post-emesis mouth rinsing, and that it's safe to add a little baking soda in the rinse. Counsel patients not to brush teeth right after vomiting, as it can damage tooth enamel.

10. Sexually Transmitted Infections
• In the first trimester and again in the 3rd trimester, based on risk factors, screen for sexually transmitted infections, per CDC guidelines.
• At the first prenatal visit, screen for syphilis and HIV, or document patient refusal for HIV testing, per WA state law.
• Assess patient’s history and risk for herpes, and consider herpes screening for woman and partners if you are able to engage in the complex conversations needed for interpreting and acting on results.
• Counsel on barrier methods for STI prevention.

11. Substance Use
• At the first prenatal visit, screen all women using an evidence-based tool validated for pregnancy use.
• Repeat screening in the middle of the second trimester.
• Assess for mental illness and violence.
• Educate about the effects of alcohol and drugs; advise all women to stop use.

12. Nicotine Use
• At each visit, assess for all forms of nicotine use using a brief intervention.
• Assess for second hand smoke exposure at home. If applicable, offer cessation support information to bring home.

13. Folic Acid and Vitamins
• At every visit, recommend or confirm folic acid at the appropriate dose.
• At every visit, counsel on recommended vitamin and mineral intake, especially key vitamins/minerals and other nutrients. Counsel against unsafe supplement use.

14. Healthy Weight, Nutrition, and Physical Activity
• Assess the patient’s BMI at the initial prenatal visit. Counsel on Institute of Medicine weight gain recommendations for specific BMIs.
• Counsel on recommended calorie intake.
• Assess physical activity and dietary habits. Counsel on recommended changes, based on identification of problems or risk factors. If diet or physical activity changes are needed, provide specific goals and a tailored plan of action. Refer to a dietitian and/or individual or group lifestyle intervention programs as appropriate.
• Counsel on water and caffeine intake.
• Counsel on avoiding food-born risks. Educate on risks for pregnant women: listeria, methyl mercury, toxoplasma.
• Assess for presence or history of eating disorders. Consider referring to dietician and/or counseling as needed.
• Assess food security. As needed, refer to Women, Infants and Children, Maternity Support Services, Basic Food, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education, if eligible. Refer to a dietician if patient is not on MSS or WIC, and dietary support is appropriate.

15. Genetic Testing
• At the first prenatal visit, discuss and offer screening and/or testing using maternal serum, ultrasound, and/or invasive testing as appropriate for gestational age.
• Counsel the patient on the availability of carrier-specific screening. Test or refer to genetic counselor as appropriate.
• Discuss fetal chromosomal abnormality screening and diagnostic testing options with all women. Offer nuchal translucency screening if it is available.

16a. Thyroid Function
• Screen for thyroid function at initial prenatal visit, based on history or risk factors.
• Manage or refer for treatment, as appropriate.

16b. Hypertension
• Screen for history of and risk factors for hypertensive disease.
• Continue to monitor for signs and symptoms of disease, including for low risk women with normal blood pressure.

16c. Diabetes
• At the first prenatal visit or within first trimester, screen for gestational diabetes based on risk factors.
• At 24-28 weeks, screen using one of the two recommended diabetes screening methods.

16d. Anemia
• As needed, provide iron supplementation, if not contraindicated.

17. Violence and Abuse
• Each trimester, screen for all forms of violence and abuse, including sex trafficking.
• Consider the patient’s potential for reproductive coercion or interference with contraception after delivery; as needed, counsel on methods that are easily hidden and difficult to interfere with.

18. Hemorrhage Risk
• Assess women for risk of hemorrhage.

19. Preterm Birth Risk
• Educate the patient about signs/symptoms of spontaneous preterm birth by 16-20 weeks.
• Screen for spontaneous preterm birth risk factors.
• If no history of preterm birth, assess cervical length as part of the 20-24 week anatomy ultrasound.

20. Injury Prevention
• Discuss reducing risk of injuries from falls during pregnancy.
• Discuss bike safety, if applicable.
• Discuss proper installation and use of car seats.
• Ask about the presence and availability of guns in the home and counsel about preventing access to guns by children.

21. Immunizations
• Provide influenza vaccine seasonally, in any trimester.
• Provide tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis vaccine in early third trimester.
• Recommend that cohabitants or others who will have regular contact with the pregnant woman and later with the baby get immunized for seasonal flu and Tdap.

22. Labor Preparation Education
• At the first prenatal visit and each trimester, counsel on general warning signs in early and late pregnancy. Counsel on reasons to call their provider after hours.
• Between 28-36 weeks, discuss birth expectation and patient birth preferences, including doula care for labor support, as needed.
• At the first prenatal visit and again at 36 weeks, counsel that pregnancy should continue for 39 weeks or more for ideal health outcomes for the infant.
• Discuss birth expectations regarding admission only when in active labor.

23. Breastfeeding
• Strongly recommend exclusive breastfeeding for about the first 6 months of a baby’s life, followed by breastfeeding in combination with introduction of complementary goods until at least 12 months of age, as outlined by the U.S. Taskforce on Breastfeeding. Consult guidelines for contraindications to breastfeeding.
• At the first prenatal visit, do a breast exam and assess for a history of breastfeeding problems.
• During the third trimester, educate the patient on common breastfeeding issues and provide information on how to get lactation support in case problems arise after delivery.
• During third trimester, counsel the patient on plans and resources for pumping, especially relating to plans for return to work.Prescribe an electric breast pump, as appropriate.

Note about the Pregnancy Care Recommendations
The pregnancy care recommendations address care for women pregnant with one baby (singleton). Pregnancy care is presumed to include full medical history, Rhogam if indicated, identification of fetal heart tones at 10-12 weeks, anatomic ultrasound at 19-20 weeks, fundal height measurement at each visit in the second and third trimester, fetal well-being tests as indicated, and consideration of external version if breech at term, following counseling.

Pregnancy care is presumed to include the following lab work:
- Blood type and Rh antibody screen. Consider eliminating the antibody screen at the 24-28 week Rhogam administration in Rh negative moms.
- Complete blood count at the initial prenatal visit.
- Complete lab tests for serial monitoring, including hemoglobin/hematocrit levels, at the initial prenatal visit and early third trimester.
- Rubella test.
- Group B strep test at 35-37 weeks. If positive, plan for treatment at delivery.
- For high risk women, cytomegalovirus and tuberculosis tests.

**Topic 1: Gestational Age**

**Recommendations**
- Establish gestational age by 8 week ultrasound and/or accurate last menstrual period.\(^4\)

**Implementation Tip**
- If nuchal translucency scan is planned, ultrasound could be deferred until 12-13 weeks to establish gestational age at that time. If ultrasound at either time varies by more than one week from last menstrual period dating, ultrasound dating should be used.

**Gestational Age Tools and Resources**

A. Opinion on Method for Estimating Due Date (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)): [http://www.acog.org/Resources-And-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/Method-for-Estimating-Due-Date](http://www.acog.org/Resources-And-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/Method-for-Estimating-Due-Date)

**References**
(1-2)

**Topic 2: Family Planning**

**Recommendations**
- Determine the patient’s desire to continue or end the pregnancy, and counsel on all choices, as appropriate.
- Refer to abortion or adoption services per patient preference in a timely manner.
- Counsel on making a reproductive life plan.\(^{B,C}\)
- Educate on planning the next pregnancy.
- Counsel on selection of a postpartum contraceptive method prior to delivery.\(^{E,J}\)

**Special Considerations**
- For women who select long-acting reversible contraception or sterilization for after delivery: arrange insertion or sterilization.
Implementation Tip

- For patients covered by Medicaid and choosing tubal ligation after delivery: obtain advance consent.

Family Planning Tools & Resources

B. Reproductive Life Plan tool for Health Professionals (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)):
   - http://www.cdc.gov/preconception/reproductiveplan.html
C. Reproductive Life Plan tool for women (CDC): http://www.cdc.gov/preconception/reproductiveplan.html
D. Long-Acting Reversible Contraception Clinical Resources (ACOG): http://www.acog.org/AboutACOG/ACOG-Departments/Long-Acting-Reversible-Contraception/LARC-Clinical-Resources
E. Contraceptive Medical Eligibility Criteria (CDC): http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/UnintendedPregnancy/USMEC.htm#a
G. Checklist for prenatal risk assessment by nurse. Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Pregnancy (Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (DoD)):
   - http://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/WH/up/mpg_v2_1_full.pdf

References

(3-6)

Topic 3: Care Timing and Transitions

Recommendations

- Complete the first prenatal visit at 6-8 weeks gestation or as soon as possible thereafter. In this visit, take a complete history, perform risk assessment, make referrals and provide education.¹
- Provide referrals to specialty care and other support services, including home visiting, as needed.
- Ensure that the patient identifies a newborn care provider before delivery.
- Transmit prenatal records to the delivery facility in a timely manner (no later than 36 weeks).

Implementation Tips

- Offer readily available appointments.
- Schedule appointments within 2 weeks of the patient’s call.
- Provide access to unscheduled visits or emergency care 24/7.
- Ensure that an interpreter is available.
- The first prenatal visit at 6-8 weeks gestation could be done by a nurse or other clinically trained provider.
- Consider use of the Centering Pregnancy model.
- Consider providing phone support and telemedicine options, as needed.

Care Timing and Transitions Tools and Resources

K. Checklist for prenatal risk assessment by nurse. Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Pregnancy (Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (DoD)):
   - http://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/WH/up/mpg_v2_1_full.pdf
L. Doula care. Evidence-Based Strategies (Health Care Authority (HCA)):
M. White paper on community based doulas (Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)):
   http://www.healthconnectone.org/pages/white_paper__the_perinatal_revolution/362.php
N. Home Visiting program website (Thrive Washington): http://thrivebyfivewa.org/home-visiting/
O. Home Visiting in Washington State website (Washington State Dept. of Early Learning):
P. Trauma Screening Instruments website (Child Welfare Information Gateway):
   https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/iia/screening/trauma-screening-instruments/

References
(1; 2; 7-12)

Topic 4: Pregnancy Loss Care

This section addresses care for all types of pregnancy loss: miscarriage, fetal demise, voluntary termination and stillborns.

Special Considerations
- For women with spontaneous miscarriage or signs/symptoms of threatened spontaneous abortion, counsel on management options, recommending expectant management, office-based or operative procedures, as indicated; Rhogam as indicated.
- For women with complications (e.g. hemorrhage/infection/needng uterine evacuation or medical management), provide frequent follow up visits and serial human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) levels testing.
- For women needing uterine evacuation, consider providing office based procedure. Refer if not trained/equipped.
- Counsel the patient on self-care post-procedure.
- For women losing two or more pregnancies, complete a recurrent pregnancy loss work-up (per ACOG guidelines).
- For women with fetal demise or stillbirth, provide diagnosis, plan for delivery, and follow up tests and evaluation (infection, genetic, diabetes, etc.).
- For women with fetal demise or stillbirth, examine the placenta and recommend autopsy if stillbirth remains unexplained.
- For women with miscarriage, spontaneous abortion, fetal demise, or stillbirth, provide depression screening and support through the grief process. Refer to support groups or therapist based on patient need, preference, and existing support system.

Pregnancy Loss Care Tools and Resources

References
(7; 13-16)

Topic 5: Family History

Recommendations
- At the first prenatal visit, take a family history to identify those with risk factors for preterm birth, birth defects, and obstetrical complications. R-T
• Counsel on genetic risks and the availability of carrier-specific screening, and test or refer to genetic counselor as appropriate.\textsuperscript{v}

Special Consideration
• For high risk women (age 35 and above, or with a family history suggestive of a chromosomal aneuploidy, or whose fetus shows an abnormality on ultrasound): offer non-invasive prenatal genetic testing.

Implementation Tips
• Encourage pregnant woman and biological fathers to explore their family health histories, if not known.\textsuperscript{w}

Family History Tools & Resources
U. Know Your Genes website for patients on Genetic Testing and Pregnancy (Genetic Disease Foundation): http://www.knowyourgenes.org/planning-carrier-screening.shtml
V. Carrier Screening for Inherited Genetic Disorders website for patients (babycenter): http://www.babycenter.com/0_carrier-screening-for-inherited-genetic-disorders_1453030.bc
W. “Know Your Family Health History” website (American Society of Human Genetics): http://www.talkhealthhistory.org/family/

References (9)

Topic 6: Mental Health

Recommendations
• At the first prenatal visit and in the third trimester, assess patient’s history and family history of mental illness/mood disorders.
• At the first prenatal visit and in the third trimester, screen for mental illness/mood disorders using a validated tool.\textsuperscript{x,dd}
• Counsel on wellness care for mental health.

Special Considerations
• Note if the patient is already in treatment for mood disorders. As appropriate, obtain release and records from therapist.
• For women screening positive for mood disorders or already using mental health medications, discuss mental health medication use and its impact on pregnancy and birth. Counsel on initiation, maintenance, and cessation of medication during pregnancy.
• For women screening positive for depression mood disorders:
  o assess level of depression and impact on function.
  o provide treatment and/or referrals, including to support groups as appropriate.
  o follow up with a phone call shortly after initial screening and ensure a follow up appointment is provided within a week of the screening.
  o check on progress at each prenatal visit.
• For all women with suicidal thoughts or psychotic symptoms: refer for immediate assessment and care.

**Implementation Tips**

• Develop an office protocol for mental health care.
• Consider using the Brief Measure of Worry Severity or Edinburgh Depression Screening Tool.
• Coordinate with mental health provider(s) and Maternity Support Services (MSS), if appropriate.

**Mental Health Tools & Resources**


Z. Depression and Other Mood Disorder During Pregnancy and Postpartum: Screening and Managing Resources and Referrals tool developed for providers (WA DOH): [http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/depression-during-pregnancy](http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/depression-during-pregnancy)

AA. Website on depression screening, including Patient Health Questionnaire 2 (PHQ-2) and PHQ-9 (American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)): [http://www.aafp.org/afp/2012/0115/p139.html](http://www.aafp.org/afp/2012/0115/p139.html)

BB. Opinion on Screening for Depression during and after pregnancy (ACOG): [http://www.acog.org/Resources-And-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/Screening-for-Perinatal-Depression](http://www.acog.org/Resources-And-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/Screening-for-Perinatal-Depression)

CC. Perinatal Depression Initiative website (ACOG): [http://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/ACOG-Districts/District-II/Perinatal-Depression-Initiative](http://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/ACOG-Districts/District-II/Perinatal-Depression-Initiative)


**References**

(1; 17-23)

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**Topic 7: Medications**

**Recommendations**

• At the first prenatal visit, determine the patient’s current use of prescription, over-the-counter, and herbal treatments. Assess any problematic use or interactions, including drug-nutrient interactions, and counsel on teratogenicity risk and on any changes needed.\(^{KE-KK}\)

• Change to safer medication options, as needed.

• Check the Prescription Monitoring Program list of controlled substance prescriptions at least once during pregnancy, and counsel accordingly.\(^{MM}\)

**Medications Tools & Resources**


FF. Reproductive Toxicology (Reprotox) website (Reproductive Toxicology Center, fee-based): [http://www.reprotox.org/](http://www.reprotox.org/)


II. Free Nutrient-Drug Interactions online resources: [http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/foodnut/09361.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/foodnut/09361.html)

References
(1-2; 8)

**Topic 8: Toxic Environmental Exposures**

**Recommendations**

- At the first prenatal visit, assess the patient’s exposure to hazardous toxins at home/work, including via cohabitants' exposure (e.g. lead, mercury, agricultural chemicals). Counsel on risk reduction strategies.
- Counsel women to avoid potential sources of lead (e.g. paint, construction materials, ceramics).

**Toxic Environmental Exposures Tools & Resources**

- **NN.** Asthma Home Visits (WA DOH):

- **OO.** Environmental Exposure Assessment forms (Davis 2007):

- **PP.** Toxic Matters brochure for families (University of California San Francisco):

- **QQ.** Teratogen Information System (TERIS) website (fee-based):

References
(8; 24-27)

**Topic 9: Oral Health**

**Recommendations**

- At the first prenatal visit, take an oral health history.
- Consider performing a brief oral health exam as part of full exam - look for swollen, bleeding gums, untreated decay, mucosal lesions, infection.
- Educate the patient on oral health self-care: emphasize brushing with fluoridated tooth paste twice daily and flossing daily; educate that chewing gum with xylitol 4-5 times per day and using cavity-reducing mouth rinses with chlorhexidine is protective and safe.
- Educate that maternal oral health can affect pregnancy outcomes and potential tooth decay in young children; bacteria (strept mutans) that lead to tooth decay (caries) are infectious and can cross the placenta and can be transmitted to a baby/child via saliva sharing.
- Refer for and encourage the most appropriate oral health care. Recommend dental cleaning in the 2nd trimester.\textsuperscript{RR}
- Educate that dental x-rays and use of nitrous oxide at lower dose and commonly used medications are safe in pregnancy.
- As appropriate, educate that the high acidity of frequent vomiting can be neutralized with post-emesis mouth rinsing, and that it's safe to add a little baking soda in the rinse. Counsel patients not to brush teeth right after vomiting, as it can damage tooth enamel.

**Oral Health Tools & Resources**

**RR.** Finding Dental Care website (WA DOH): [http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/OralHealth/FindingDentalCare](http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/OralHealth/FindingDentalCare)


**TT.** Patient Mighty Mouth website on pregnancy: [http://www.themightymouth.org/tips-parents/pregnancy/](http://www.themightymouth.org/tips-parents/pregnancy/)


**References**

(28-34)

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**Topic 10: Sexually Transmitted Infections**

**Recommendations**

- In the first trimester and again in the 3rd trimester, based on risk factors, screen for sexually transmitted infections (STI), per CDC guidelines.\textsuperscript{XX}
- At the first prenatal visit, screen for syphilis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), or document patient refusal for HIV testing, per WA state law.
- Assess patient’s history and risk for herpes, and consider herpes screening for woman and partners if you are able to engage in the complex conversations needed for interpreting and acting on results.
- Counsel on barrier methods for STI prevention.

**Special Considerations**

- For women with HIV: counsel on how HIV can impact pregnancy, the importance of making a reproductive plan, and medication management.\textsuperscript{YY}

**Sexually Transmitted Infections Tools & Resources**


**ZZ.** STI screening recommendations (United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)): [http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/uspstf-recommendations-for-sti-screening](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/uspstf-recommendations-for-sti-screening)

**References**

(35-36)
**Topic 11: Substance Use**

This topic addresses use of alcohol, marijuana, and all drugs with abuse potential.

**Recommendations**
- At the first prenatal visit, screen all women using an evidence-based tool validated for pregnancy use (e.g. 4Ps (parents, partners, past, present, pregnancy) or CRAFFT).\(^{AAA}\)
- Repeat screening in the middle of the second trimester.
- Assess for mental illness and violence (refer to specific recommendations on these topics).
- Educate about the effects of alcohol and drugs; advise all women to stop use.\(^{BBB}\)

**Special Considerations**
- For women with substance misuse/abuse:\(^{AAA, GGG}\)
  - assess patient’s level of risk and willingness to change.
  - refer for treatment (see “Substance Abuse During Pregnancy: Guidelines for Screening and Management Quick Reference Guide” link).
  - recommend breastfeeding if the patient is stable, in treatment, and has no current illicit use (except methadone or buprenorphine).
  - educate about modifiable factors affected by recovery: stable early life environment, decreased ongoing exposure.
  - If patient shows acute alcohol or sedative withdrawal, refer to inpatient management. If she shows opioid dependence, refer for inpatient or outpatient stabilization, depending on comorbidities and presence of withdrawal.

**Implementation Tips**
- Use the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) framework for screening.\(^{CCC-FFF}\)
- Refer to the WA DOH “Substance Abuse During Pregnancy: Guidelines for Screening and Management Quick Reference Guide”,\(^{AAA}\)
- For patients in treatment for substance use:
  - coordinate with the addiction treatment provider.
  - a bidirectional release is needed. Have referral resources/protocol at each office.

**Substance Use Tools & Resources**

| CCC. | SBIRT website (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)): [http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/SBIRT](http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/SBIRT) |
| DDD. | Medicaid provides reimbursement for SBIRT but requires all provides who bill to have at least four hours of training. Online training modules are available (Washington State Department of Social and Health Services). For more information: [www.wasbirt.com/content/training](http://www.wasbirt.com/content/training) |

References
(2; 6; 24; 37-41)

**Topic 12: Nicotine Use**

**Recommendations**
- At each visit, assess for all forms of nicotine use (including e-cigarettes, vaping and chew) using a brief intervention, e.g. 5As (Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist and Arrange) or 2As and R (Ask, Advise and Refer). HHH, III
- Assess for second hand smoke exposure at home. If applicable, offer cessation support information to bring home. TTT, VVV

**Special Considerations**
- For women who use nicotine: advise to quit and refer to support for cessation. MMM-QQQ

**Implementation Tips**
- Use the WA DOH fax referral program or other insurance covered cessation program. JJJ, KKK
- Consider using certified medical assistants (CMAs) to do nicotine interventions and fax referrals.
- Pursue/offer provider education on different kinds of nicotine delivery methods and the risks of each.
- Get trained in motivational interviewing technique.

**Nicotine Use Tools & Resources**


III. 5 As tool (American Medical Association (AMA)): (see page 4): http://healthcarepartnership.webhost.uit.arizona.edu/oc/olc/resources/pdf_content/clin%20pract%20gdn%20article%20JAMA%20202000.pdf

JJJ. Tobacco Quitline Fax Referral Form (WA DOH): http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/340-221-FaxReferralForm.pdf

KKK. Tobacco Quitline Phone Numbers by insurance company (WA DOH): http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Tobacco/HowtoQuit/QuitlinePhoneNumbers


OOO. Substance Free for My Baby (WA DOH): http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/substance-free-for-my-baby

PPP. Steps to Quit Smoking booklet (WA DOH): http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/steps-to-quit-smoking-moms


SSS. Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping (WA DOH): http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Tobacco/OtherTobaccoProducts/ECigarettes

TTT. Secondhand Smoke website (CDC): http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/secondhand_smoke/


VVV. Evidence that secondhand smoke exposure is harmful (CDC): http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/secondhand_smoke/index.htm


References
(42-48)

**Topic 13: Folic Acid and Vitamins**

**Recommendations**

Folic acid:

- At every visit, recommend or confirm folic acid at the appropriate dose. The general pregnancy requirement is 600 mcg: usually 400 mcg from supplementation with an additional 200 mcg from either supplementation or consuming folate-rich foods (e.g. leafy green vegetables, citrus fruits, beans/legumes, nuts, and whole grains).

Other nutrients:

- At every visit, counsel on recommended vitamin and mineral intake, especially key vitamins/minerals (e.g. calcium, iron, vitamin D, iodine) and other nutrients (e.g. essential fatty acids (omega-3 and omega-6 found in ground flax seeds, walnuts, oily fish, some vegetable oils)). Counsel against unsafe supplement use (use above the RDAs).
  - Vitamin B12: pregnancy requirement is 2.6 mcg/day
  - Iodine: pregnancy requirement is 220 mcg/day; recommend 150 mcg/day supplementation
  - Iron: pregnancy requirement is 3.5 mg/day (hemoglobin levels: 9.5 - 12.5)
  - Calcium: pregnancy recommended intake is 1300 mg

**Special Considerations**

Special considerations for folic acid:

- For women using medications to treat epilepsy, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, psoriasis, asthma; women with a Body Mass Index (BMI) > 35, multiple gestation, inflammatory bowel disease, alcohol dependence, or malabsorptive disorders: up to 1,000 mcg of folic acid may be needed daily from dietary supplements if a deficiency is diagnosed.
- For women at highest risk (i.e. women who had a prior pregnancy complicated by a neural tube defect): 4,000-5,000 mcg of folic acid may be needed daily, by prescription.

Special considerations for other nutrients:

- For women with bariatric issues, monitor for nutritional deficiencies and give supplements where indicated (B12, folate, iron, calcium).
- For women with inflammatory bowel or malabsorption and those who are vegan, recommend 2.6 mcg mcg/day of B12 supplementation, if not in vegan sources of food.
- For women with poor calcium intake, recommend 1500-2000 mg/day supplementation.
• For women who are vegetarians, assess for lower intake of folate, B12, iron and zinc, and recommend supplementation as appropriate.

Implementation Tip
• Recommend daily consumption of 600 mcg of folic acid during the first prenatal appointment scheduling call; explain that the provider may recommend a higher dose after assessing each woman.

Folic Acid and Vitamins Tools & Resources
XXX. Folate factsheets for providers and for consumers (National Institutes of Health (NIH)): http://ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/list-all/Folate/
AAAA. Opinion on Obesity in Pregnancy, which addresses confirming/adjusting supplement dose at first prenatal visit and addressing bariatric issues (ACOG): http://www.acog.org/-/media/Committee%20Opinions/Committee%20on%20Obstetric%20Practice/co549.pdf?dmc=1&ts=20141001T1629280834
BBBB. Dietary and Herbal Supplements website (NIH): http://nccam.nih.gov/health/supplements
CCCC. Dietary Supplement fact sheets (NIH): http://ods.od.nih.gov/
EEEE. FAQ page on Nutrition During Pregnancy, which addresses supplements (ACOG): http://www.acog.org/~/media/For%20Patients/faq001.pdf?dmc=1&ts=20140828T0315214740

References
(2; 8; 24; 37; 49-57)

Topic 14: Healthy Weight, Nutrition, and Physical Activity

Recommendations
• Assess the patient’s BMI at the initial prenatal visit. Counsel on Institute of Medicine (IOM) weight gain recommendations for specific BMIs. FFFF
• Counsel on recommended calorie intake (For women with normal BMI before pregnancy: 340 extra calories/day in second trimester, 452 extra calories/day in third trimester). GGGG-HHHH
• Assess physical activity and dietary habits. Counsel on recommended changes, based on identification of problems or risk factors. If diet or physical activity changes are needed, provide specific goals and a tailored plan of action. Refer to a dietitian and/or individual or group lifestyle intervention programs (e.g. healthy eating, active living) as appropriate. IIII-OOOO, QQQQ
• Counsel on water (suggest 64 ounces per day, including the water content in foods and other beverages) and caffeine (no more than 200 mg per day) intake. pppp
• Counsel on avoiding food-born risks (wash hands and produce, cook meat, healthy fish consumption). Educate on risks for pregnant women: listeria, methyl mercury, toxoplasma. VVVV-XXXX
• Assess for presence or history of eating disorders. Consider referring to dietician and/or counseling as needed.
• Assess food security. As needed, refer to Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Maternity Support Services (MSS), Basic Food, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), if eligible. Refer to a dietician if patient is not on MSS or WIC, and dietary support is appropriate. SSSS, TTTT

Special Considerations
Healthy Weight, Nutrition, and Physical Activity Tools & Resources


NNNN. Handouts for patients on various relevant topics (ACNM): [http://www.midwife.org/Share-With-Women](http://www.midwife.org/Share-With-Women)

OOOO. Website on nutrition (CDC): [http://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/index.html)

PPPP. Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs) for water and micronutrients (USDA): [http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/DRI/DRI_Tables/DRI_RDAs_Adequate_Intakes_Total_Water_Micronutrients.pdf](http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/DRI/DRI_Tables/DRI_RDAs_Adequate_Intakes_Total_Water_Micronutrients.pdf)


SSSS. WIC website (WA DOH): [http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC](http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC)

TTTT. WIC Referral Form for Pregnant Women (Department of Health Services, WIC Supplemental Nutrition Branch): [http://www.acphd.org/media/106492/wic_pregwm_refform_pm247.pdf](http://www.acphd.org/media/106492/wic_pregwm_refform_pm247.pdf)


VVVV. Healthy fish intake information (FDA): [http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodborneIllnessContaminants/Metals/ucm393070.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodborneIllnessContaminants/Metals/ucm393070.htm)


YYYY. Women and Obesity tools and resources (ACOG): [http://www.acog.org/About_ACOG/ACOG_Districts/District_II/Women_and_Obesity](http://www.acog.org/About_ACOG/ACOG_Districts/District_II/Women_and_Obesity)

References
(1; 2; 8; 24; 27; 58-62)

**Topic 15: Genetic Testing**

**Recommendations**
• At the first prenatal visit, discuss and offer screening and/or testing using maternal serum, ultrasound, and/or invasive testing as appropriate for gestational age. ZZZZ
• Counsel the patient on the availability of carrier-specific screening. Test or refer to genetic counselor as appropriate. AAAAA
• Discuss fetal chromosomal abnormality screening and diagnostic testing options with all women. Offer nuchal translucency screening if it is available.

Special Consideration
• For high risk women (women with significant family history or ultrasound abnormalities) or for women interested in diagnostic testing: refer to or arrange consultation with maternal fetal medicine specialist.

Genetic Testing Tools and Resources
ZZZZ. Genetic testing website (WA DOH):
http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InfantsChildrenandTeens/HealthandSafety/GeneticServices
AAAAAA. Find a genetic clinic in Washington State (WA DOH):
http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InfantsChildrenandTeens/HealthandSafety/GeneticServices/GeneticClinics

References
(1; 10; 63)

Topic 16a: Thyroid Function

Recommendations
• Screen for thyroid function at initial prenatal visit, based on history or risk factors.
• Manage or refer for treatment, as appropriate.

Implementation Tip
• Consider universal screening for thyroid levels at initial prenatal visit, based on patient population.

References
(64-66)

Topic 16b: Hypertension

Recommendations
• Screen for history of and risk factors for hypertensive disease. BBBBB
• Continue to monitor for signs and symptoms of disease, including for low risk women with normal blood pressure.

Special Considerations
• For women with hypertension: provide management (e.g. medications and monitoring). CCCCC-EEEEEEE, GGGG, IIII
• For women at risk and those with hypertension: complete blood work including renal function test.
• For women at high risk for preeclampsia: provide low dose aspirin.
• For women at moderate risk for preeclampsia: consider use of aspirin to prevent preeclampsia. HHHHHH
Hypertension Tools & Resources


CCCCC. 2014 Evidence-Based Guideline for the Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults (8th Joint National Committee (JNC 8)): http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1791497

DDDDD. Blood Pressure Measurement Training Kit (WA DOH): http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/bp-measurement-training-kit

EEEEE. Improving the Screening, Prevention, and Management of Hypertension—An Implementation Tool for Clinic Practice Teams (WA DOH): http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/bp-management-implementation-tool

FFFFF. About the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) eating plan (NIH): http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/topics/topics/dash


HHHHH. Preeclampsia Toolkit (free but requires registration) (California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC)): https://cmqcc.org/preeclampsia_toolkit

IIIII. Management of hypertension in pregnancy (United Kingdom National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)): http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG107/chapter/introduction

References

(8; 64; 67-74)

Topic 16c: Diabetes

Recommendations

- At the first prenatal visit or within first trimester, screen for gestational diabetes based on risk factors.
- At 24-28 weeks, screen using one of the two recommended diabetes screening methods. (2 step approach using 1 hour 50 gram glucola test or 1 step approach using 2 hour 75 gram glucola test).

Special Considerations

- Manage diabetes and gestational diabetes (medical management, dietary and physical activity goals, and referral to dietitian, specialists, and support groups as needed).
- Educate women with gestational diabetes about 6 week postpartum and annual diabetes screening after delivery.
- Consider high-risk women found to have diabetes at the initial prenatal visit to have type 2 diabetes, not gestational diabetes.
- For women with a history of gastric bypass/bariatric surgery who are dumping, use fasting and 2 hour postprandial finger sticks x 1 week.
- For women with a history of gastric bypass/bariatric surgery, 50 g glucose solution commonly used for screening may not be tolerated; consider screening alternatives such as home monitoring fasting and 2 hour postprandial blood sugar for 1 week during 24-28 weeks gestation. Consult with a perinatologist and/or a bariatric surgeon as needed.

Implementation Tip

- Consider universal blood A1c screening at initial prenatal visit, based on provider discretion.

Diabetes Tools and Resources
Comparison of 4 national guidelines (American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, ACOG, The Endocrine Society, USPSTF) for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus Screening (AHRQ): 

The 2013 NIH Consensus Development Conference: Diagnosing Gestational Diabetes Mellitus continues to support the two-step procedure (US DHHS, NIH): 

References
(2; 8; 64; 75-86)

Topic 16d: Anemia

Recommendations
- As needed, provide iron supplementation, if not contraindicated.

Anemia Tools and Resources

References
(87-89)

Topic 17: Violence and Abuse

Recommendations
- Each trimester, screen for all forms of violence and abuse, including sex trafficking.
- Consider the patient’s potential for reproductive coercion or interference with contraception after delivery; as needed, counsel on methods that are easily hidden and difficult to interfere with.

Special Considerations
- For women experiencing any kind of violence/abuse:
  - refer as appropriate.
  - provide relevant education and referral information, including a safety card.
  - provide a safe, private place for contacting a violence hotline.
  - assure safety while at your office.
  - as appropriate, encourage the woman to create a safety plan.
- For women with histories of any kind of violence/abuse:
  - provide trauma-informed care, including plan for reducing trauma at delivery.
  - address breastfeeding issues that may arise relating to experience of violence or coercion such as partner interference, sensations that remind the survivor of abuse, fear of a provider touching their breasts without asking first, or general discomfort.

Implementation Tips
- Consider using the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACES) screening tool to identify women at high risk: http://www.acestudy.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/ACE_Calculator-English.127143712.pdf
Violence and Abuse Tools & Resources

Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy: Screening, Resources, and Referrals (WA DOH):
http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/violence-pregnancy-resources

Domestic violence screening recommendations (ACOG):
http://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/ACOG-Departments/Violence-Against-Women/Screening-Tools--Domestic-Violence

Guidelines on intimate partner violence, reproductive and sexual coercion (ACOG):

Safety cards on screening and intervention (Futures Without Violence (FWV)):
http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/?s=safety+card

Health and domestic violence materials (FWV):
http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/health-materials-index/

Trainings on FWV’s safety card screening and intervention (The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence): www.wscadv.org

Direct victim services or provider training/resources (Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network):
www.warn-trafficking.org

Human Trafficking: The Role of the Health Care Provider page (FWV):
http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/human-trafficking-role-healthcare/

Rescue and Restore Campaign Toolkits for victims of human trafficking (US DHHS):

On breastfeeding for survivors (Pandora’s Project):
http://www.pandys.org/articles/breastfeeding.html

Early Trauma, Its Potential Impact on the Childbearing Woman, and the Role of the Midwife (Midwifery Today):
http://www.midwiferytoday.com/articles/early_trauma.asp

Pregnant survivors’ website (Washington State Attorney General (WA ATG)):
http://pregnatsurvivors.org/

Pregnant survivors’ practice guidelines (WA ATG):

Trauma Toolbox for Primary Care (American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)):
www.aap.org/traumaguide

Trauma-Informed Approach and Trauma-Specific Interventions (SAMHSA):
http://www.samhsa.gov/nctic/trauma-interventions

Creating Trauma Informed Services guidelines (WA Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs):

References
(2; 90-92)

Topic 18: Hemorrhage Risk

Recommendations
• Assess women for risk of hemorrhage.

Special Considerations
• For women with moderate to high risk for postpartum hemorrhage, counsel on plans for preventing hemorrhage, including bloodwork, IV, and active 3rd stage labor management. Ensure delivery at risk-appropriate facility with capability of massive transfusion.
  o For women who won’t accept blood transfusions (e.g. Jehovah’s witnesses), counsel on options when available (e.g. bloodless programs).
**Hemorrhage Tools and Resources**

Obstetric Hemorrhage Toolkit (CMQCC): [https://www.cmqcc.org/ob_hemorrhage](https://www.cmqcc.org/ob_hemorrhage)

**References**

(87)

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**Topic 19: Preterm Birth Risk**

**Recommendations**

- Educate the patient about signs/symptoms of spontaneous preterm birth by 16-20 weeks.
- Screen for spontaneous preterm birth risk factors.
- If no history of preterm birth, assess cervical length as part of the 20-24 week anatomy ultrasound.

**Special Considerations**

- For women with a history of spontaneous preterm birth 16-36 weeks, provide 17-hydroxyprogesterone (17-OH-P) weekly injections at 16-36 weeks. Provide transvaginal ultrasound for cervical length every 14 days 16-24 weeks and every 7 days if cervix is < 30 mm; if length is < 25 mm, consider cerclage.
- For women with no history of spontaneous preterm birth, but with signs/symptoms, provide transvaginal ultrasound and administer vaginal progesterone for women with a short cervix.
- For women with modifiable risks (e.g. tobacco use, depression, violence, alcohol/drugs, lack of support systems), provide treatment or referrals.

**Preterm Birth Risk Tools and Resources**


**References**

(1; 8; 37; 93-97)

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**Topic 20: Injury Prevention**

**Recommendations**

- Discuss reducing risk of injuries from falls during pregnancy.
- Discuss bike safety, if applicable.
- Discuss proper installation and use of car seats.
- Ask about the presence and availability of guns in the home and counsel about preventing access to guns by children.

**Implementation Tip**
• Consider recommending removal of guns from the home or using safer storage strategies. Consider counseling about and promoting use of gun safes, trigger locks, cable locks, etc.

Injury Prevention Tools and Resources
GGGGGG. Statement on firearm injury to children (AAP):
http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2012/10/15/peds.2012-2481.full.pdf

References
(98)

Topic 21: Immunizations

Recommendations
• Provide influenza (flu) vaccine seasonally, in any trimester.
• Provide tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine in early third trimester.
• Recommend that cohabitants or others who will have regular contact with the pregnant woman and later with the baby get immunized for seasonal flu and Tdap.

Immunizations Tools & Resources
HHHHHH. Immunization Guidelines (CDC, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)):
http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html

IIIIII. Provider tool on Influenza in Pregnancy/Postpartum (WA DOH):
http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/influenza-pregnancy-for-providers


KKKKKK. Immunization and Pregnancy chart (CDC):

References
(10; 99)

Topic 22: Labor Preparation Education

Recommendations
• At the first prenatal visit and each trimester, counsel on general warning signs in early and late pregnancy. Counsel on reasons to call their provider after hours.
• Between 28-36 weeks, discuss birth expectation and patient birth preferences, including doula care for labor support, as needed. (birth plan)
• At the first prenatal visit and again at 36 weeks, counsel that pregnancy should continue for 39 weeks or more for ideal health outcomes for the infant.
• Discuss birth expectations regarding admission only when in active labor.

Special Considerations
• At the first prenatal visit, counsel the patient on trial of labor after cesarean (TOLAC), if relevant.

Labor Preparation Tools and Resources


References (2; 8; 100-104)

**Topic 23: Breastfeeding**

**Recommendations**

- Strongly recommend exclusive breastfeeding for about the first 6 months of a baby’s life, followed by breastfeeding in combination with introduction of complementary goods until at least 12 months of age, as outlined by the U.S. Taskforce on Breastfeeding. Consult guidelines for contraindications to breastfeeding.
- At the first prenatal visit, do a breast exam and assess for a history of breastfeeding problems.
- During the third trimester, educate the patient on common breastfeeding issues and provide information on how to get lactation support in case problems arise after delivery.
- During third trimester, counsel the patient on plans and resources for pumping, especially relating to plans for return to work. Prescribe an electric breast pump, as appropriate.

**Special Considerations**

- For women with a history of breast surgery, flat/inverted nipples, or any previous difficulties breastfeeding, during the third trimester recommend meeting with lactation consultant prior to delivery (ideally around 34-37 weeks). Provide referral information.

**Implementation Tips**

- See recommendations for violence and abuse related care pertaining to breastfeeding.

**Breastfeeding Tools and Resources**

- BreastFeeding Inc. website: [http://www.breastfeedinginc.ca](http://www.breastfeedinginc.ca)
- Black Mothers’ Breastfeeding Association website: [http://blackmothersbreastfeeding.org](http://blackmothersbreastfeeding.org)

References (2; 8; 75; 105-108)

**General Tools and Resources**

**General Resources for Providers:**

**General Resources for Women:**

Pregnancy Portal (WA DOH): http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WomensHealth/Pregnancy

“Share With Women” patient handouts on variety of topics, including some in Spanish (ACNM): http://www.midwife.org/Share-With-Women

Text 4 Baby App: https://www.text4baby.org/

**Reference List**


