Hospital practices that promote breastfeeding initiation

Discussion of interventions, education, or activities that promote breastfeeding prenatally or in the first zero to five days postpartum (eg. anticipatory counseling, lactation consultant visit, and/or breastfeeding class)

Discussion of the importance of early breastfeeding initiation, on demand, frequent breastfeeding (8-12 times/day) in hospital within first hour/first 24 hours

No separation of mother-baby after delivery

No oral intake of fluids, unless medically necessary, other than breast milk

Discussion of the importance of skin-to-skin contact

Reasons for delay in lactogenesis II

Maternal systemic conditions (eg. insulin resistance), stress, separation of mother-baby, complications of labor/delivery, maternal surgical or medical history (eg. radiation of chest), maternal anatomy leading to decreased production or poor latch, and/or maternal medications (eg. drowsiness, breastfeeding contraindication)

Infant anatomy leading to poor suck, infant illness leading to separation, and/or prematurity (poor suck/separation)

Normal milk production timeline, volume, and measurements

Lactogenesis I in second trimester, lactogenesis II around 72 hours postpartum

Average milk production in first week (\sim 100 mLs day one to \sim 500 mLs day five) and between months one and six postpartum (\sim 780 mls/day)

Weighted feeds, pump volumes, breast storage capacity as estimates of milk production

Supply and demand physiology

Supply & demand mentioned (various synonyms of supply and demand acceptable)

Discussion of hormonal influence on milk production (prolactin, oxytocin, cortisol, insulin)

Maternal or infant nutritional requirements

Discussion of increased caloric requirements for mother (~300 additional calories) and increased or modified macro-micro-nutrient requirements

Discussion of milk composition changes as related to infant nutritional needs for optimal growth

Discussion of average infant intake (no increase between one month and six months postpartum: 24-30 oz./day)

Breastfeeding techniques that support or interfere with milk production

Discussion of optimal or suboptimal techniques: pumping, on demand feeding, infant cues, latch assessment, positioning

Biological/physiological/behavioral reasons for perceived or real low milk production (before six months postpartum)

Maternal systemic conditions (eg. insulin resistance), stress, separation of mother-baby, complications of labor/delivery, maternal surgical or medical history (eg. radiation of chest), maternal anatomy leading to decreased production or poor latch, and/or medications that decrease production

Infant anatomy leading to ineffective suck, infant illness leading to separation, prematurity (poor suck/separation), medications that decrease infant alertness, neurological (eg. Downs syndrome), growth spurt (eg. cluster feeding causing mother to think milk supply is not enough), early complementary food introduction, and/or behavioral (eg. breast aversion, bottle preference)

Foods/Medications/Supplements that have the potential to increase milk production

Discussion of foods, medications, and/or herbs that have the potential to increase milk production