

Education Express

Policy Change: Use of Mother's Own Milk with THC



Level of education: Level II Moderate **YELLOW**

March 2020

Background: The Policy *Lactation: Drugs of Abuse, Narcotics and use of Human Milk* has been reviewed and updated according to current recommendations and evidence. Historically, if an infant or mother's drug screen was positive for THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), restrictions were placed on the use of Mother's Own Milk (MOM) based on the patient's gestational age.

New Policy Guidelines: This policy no longer has any restrictions related to the patient's gestational age. MOM may be given to patients whose drug screens (or mother's drug screen) are positive for THC only. ([Click here for Policy #6921899](#))

Policy Statement:

F. THC is the only illicit substance in which MOM may be used. The mother will be encouraged to stop marijuana use, counseled about the potential risks of using marijuana while breastfeeding, receive written education and sign acknowledgement of education.

Procedures:

C. If mother is positive for only THC within 30 days of delivery MOM may be given to an infant, although continued THC use will be strongly discouraged.

Process:

B. Mother positive for THC only - use MOM

1. Encourage mother to stop using THC
2. Educate mother about the potential risks for her baby if using Marijuana while breastfeeding. Mother is to sign a form indicating That she received education and understands the potential risks of using marijuana while breastfeeding.

Highlights

Mother's own milk may be given to infants regardless of gestational age if THC is the only illicit substance.

Continued use of THC will be strongly discouraged.

Mother will sign *Breastfeeding and Marijuana Use* form acknowledging receipt of counseling on breastfeeding and marijuana use.



BREASTFEEDING AND MARIJUANA USE

Patient Sticker

We are glad you want to give breastmilk to your newborn. Your baby's medical team wants to work with you so you have a good breastfeeding experience. As you know, breastfeeding has many benefits for you and your baby.

However, here are some facts about marijuana and breastfeeding that we want you to know.

Marijuana is not safe for a breastfeeding mom. Even though marijuana is legal in some states and is used by some people for medical reasons, it is still not safe to use while breastfeeding. Marijuana gets into your breastmilk. It can hurt your baby's growing brain.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists suggests mothers stop using marijuana while breastfeeding their baby.

Using marijuana while caring for your baby can affect the safety of your baby.

The medical team has encouraged me to stop using all marijuana products while breastfeeding and caring for my baby. I have been counseled by the medical team about the risks of using of marijuana while breastfeeding.

Signed _____

Date / Time _____

Witness _____



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