Health Care Providers’ Role in SUPPORTING BREASTFEEDING

Pediatricians, obstetricians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and family medicine providers can play a key role in promoting breastfeeding and supporting families.

You and your staff can:

• Communicate the benefits of breastfeeding and the risks of formula feeding to all of your patients (Use the handout Benefits of Breastfeeding: Information for Pregnant Women & New Families).

• Educate yourself about breastfeeding and how to care for breastfeeding families in your practice (Use the Provider Resource Guide for Breastfeeding).

• Know how to assess breastfeeding and manage common breastfeeding problems.

• Know the local resources available to you and your patients (WIC, breastfeeding support groups, lactation consultants, breast pump rental stations, etc.).

• Understand how to use breastfeeding equipment and be able to support women who wish to return to work or school while breastfeeding.

• Consider having a Lactation Consultant on staff to address any questions or concerns your patients may have.