

Alaska WIC BFPC Policies

Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Scope of Practice

The Breastfeeding Peer Counselor scope of practice shall include:

- Offer breastfeeding encouragement
- Provide information on the advantages of breastfeeding and the risks of not breastfeeding
- Help women identify their concerns and barriers around breastfeeding
- Recognize signs of the normal course of breastfeeding
- Provide basic education, problem-solving and support
- Teach mothers basic techniques that help ensure a successful start in breastfeeding
- Refer families to appropriate resources
- Identify situations of the breastfeeding peer counselor scope of practice and make appropriate referrals in a timely manner
- Breastfeeding Peer Counselors shall have timely access to the local program's Breastfeeding Coordinator and the program IBCLC for assistance with problems outside of the peer counselor's scope of practice
- Breastfeeding Peer Counselors shall NOT:
 - Diagnose conditions
 - Provide medical advice
 - Prescribe or recommend medications
 - Attempt to remedy potentially serious problems