

# Encouraging Your Patients to Breastfeed: Tool Kit Instructions

**The Purpose of the Breastfeeding Tool Kit:** To assist providers in initiating a concise (1-3 minute) conversation with their pregnant patients about the importance of breastfeeding and provide them with useful resources.

**Step 1:** Use the ***“Breastfeeding Checklist”*** at prenatal visits to encourage and personalize the importance of breastfeeding. This checklist, if completed and included in the patient’s chart, documents meeting the Medicaid mandate to discuss breastfeeding.

**Step 2:** Use the ***“Breastfeeding Partnership Referral Form”***, ideally copied on the back of the ***Breastfeeding Checklist***, to refer your patient to community breastfeeding support (i.e. the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program).

**Step 3:** The laminated ***“Encouraging Your Patient to Breastfeed”*** guide should be available in each examination room and helps determine your patient’s readiness to breastfeed. This guide also provides appropriate next-step suggestions for your patient based on the Stages of Change Model.

**Step 4:** Provide patients with the take-home breastfeeding information sheet, ***“Breastfeeding Facts”***.

