



**Job Code:** 6476  
**Grade:** FE  
**HCWR:** N

**Job Title**  
Lactation Consultant

**Department**  
Obstetrics and Gynecology / Pediatrics

**Job Summary**

Under general supervision of the Department Chair, educates patients and staff of the lactation program focusing on antepartum, postpartum, nursery and problems solving resolutions. Offers feedback and patient support during the decision-making process. Develops protocols for assessment of breast-feeding infants and lactating mothers. Collects and reports monthly breastfeeding statistics. Participates in ongoing hospital quality assurance projects to support the Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition (mPINC) survey required every two years. The Director of Advanced Practice Professionals will monitor the employee for compliance with standards of nursing care and practice.

**Typical Duties**

- Educates patients and staff of the lactation program focusing on antepartum, postpartum, nursery and problems solving resolution
- Provides information that further educates and reinforces data to support the improved developmental outcomes of breastfeed infants
- Offers feedback and patient support during the breastfeeding decision-making process; respects the mothers final decision
- Values the privacy of mothers conducting breastfeeding activities
- Provides breastfeeding support in person or by phone to all mothers delivering at Stroger
- Offers breastfeeding materials and supplies to breastfeeding mothers
- Stocks lactation rooms and storage areas, assuring breast pump equipment is clean and safe before each patient use
- Supports mothers with normal newborns as well as mothers of infants in the NICU, especially extremely low birth weight infants for whom the provision of breast milk is of primary importance in their medical care during extended hospitalization
- Develops protocols for assessment of breast-feeding infants and lactating mothers
- Provides constant, ongoing support with breast pumping equipment, education and constant access to the lactation consultants and counseling staff
- Coordinates distribution and provides electric breast pumps to mothers whose baby remains in the hospital following discharge for any length of time
- Spends time daily with mothers at the bedside of their infants; troubleshoots and resolves issues with the potential to limit the supply of essential breast milk to their infants
- Acts as liaison with medical and nursing staff to any ongoing issues which can be ameliorated with the provision of breast milk to this most fragile population
- Recruits and supervises breastfeeding peer counselors when feasible
- Participates in the development or improvement of breast feeding services through education
- Participates in breastfeeding committees and organizations
- Stays current and involved with community outreach awareness of breastfeeding through speaking engagements, health fairs and other resource opportunities



**Typical Duties**

- Serves as a referral source for breastfeeding related problems for WIC nutritionist or breastfeeding coordinator, mother's physician or nurse, public health programs in the community and social service agencies
- Collects and reports monthly breastfeeding statistics
- Participates in ongoing hospital quality assurance projects to support the Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition (mPINC) survey required every two years
- Tracks and provides data to the Perinatal Center relating to maternal transports to Stroger Hospital from network hospitals for prenatal interventions and delivery
- Develops and teaches childbirth education classes at Stroger Hospital
- Coordinates and attends monthly interdisciplinary meetings.
- Participates in opportunities aimed at community awareness of breastfeeding through speaking engagements, health fairs, and other events

**Minimum Qualifications**

- Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN)
- Licensed Registered Nurse in the State of Illinois
- Current International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) certificate or must be obtained within twelve (12) months of hire date
- Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) certificate or must be obtained within three (3) months of hire date
- Three (3) years of experience as a lactation counselor within the past five (5) years
- Ability to travel to attend speaking engagements throughout the community

**Preferred Qualifications**

- Master's Degree in Nursing or other related Health field
- Bilingual English/Spanish

**Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Other Characteristics**

- Knowledge of Infection Control and Safety Policies
- Knowledge of hand washing and sanitizing practices
- Knowledge of breastfeeding and prenatal care
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills necessary to communicate with all levels of staff and a patient population composed of diverse cultures and age groups
- Strong interpersonal and empathy skills
- Demonstrate the ability to teach and present in groups
- Ability to tolerate exposure to unpleasant noise, odor and temperature
- Ability to prioritize, plan, and organize projects and tasks
- Ability to multi-task and meet deadlines in a fast paced and stressful environment
- Ability to adhere to all hospital and department policies and standards utilizing best practices
- Ability to maintain a professional demeanor and composure when challenged
- Ability to travel to attend speaking engagements throughout the community
- Ability to operate breast pumping equipment and clean after each use



**Physical and Environmental Demands**

This position is functioning within a healthcare environment. The incumbent is responsible for adherence to all hospital and department specific safety requirements. This includes but is not limited to the following policies and procedures: complying with Personal Protective Equipment requirements, hand washing and sanitizing practices, complying with department specific engineering and work practice controls and any other work area safety precautions as specified by hospital wide policy and departmental procedures.

**The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of the personnel so classified.**

**For purposes of the American with Disabilities Act, “Typical Duties” are essential job functions.**