BREAST PUMP SELECTION CRITERIA

Feeding at the breast is the ideal method of infant feeding. For a baby that cannot breastfeed, milk expressed from his/her mother's breast is the next best option (UNICEF, 2002). Clinical consultation with an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) or a clinician trained in lactation management is recommended to effectively assess and resolve "Special Situations." Mothers should receive instruction and follow-up in how to properly utilize electric breast pumps to ensure success.

Type of Use	Manual Pump	Personal Electric Pump	Rental-Grade Electric Pump
Occasional Use (night out, part-time work)	X	X	
Daily Pumping established milk supply and breastfeeding when with child (full-time work or school)		X	X
Exclusive Pumping infant not at breast / no latch (see "Special Situations" below)			X

Special Situations	Manual Pump	Personal Electric Pump	Rental-Grade Electric Pump
Initiating milk supply and unable to feed at breast			X
Low milk supply			X
Infant too premature to effectively feed at the breast			X
Infant or mother too ill to enable feeding at the breast			X
Child anatomical and/or physiologic abnormalities that diminish infant feeding (Down Syndrome, cleft lip, etc.)			X
Mother breast and/or nipple abnormalities (inverted or flat nipples, breast surgery, etc.)			X
Breast infections			X
Poor latch and/or **Sore nipples** and/or **Engorgement**	IBCLC or expert clinician evaluation required to assess cause and develop plan of correction, which may or may not include the use of a pump. Personal electric pumps not recommended for temporary use.		

These recommendations have been developed and endorsed by the Rhode Island Breastfeeding Coalition, the Physicians' Committee for Breastfeeding in Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Department of Health for health care providers and insurers to utilize in conjunction with the standard breast pump prescription posted at http://www.health.ri.gov/family/breastfeeding/BreastPumpPrescription.pdf .

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