

Breastfeeding Committee for Canada

The BFI 10 Steps and WHO Code Outcome Indicators for Hospitals and Community Health Services

Step 1	WHO	Have a written breastfeeding policy that is routinely communicated to all health care staff.
	Canada	Have a written infant feeding policy that is routinely communicated to all staff, health care providers and volunteers.

Step 2	WHO	Train all health care staff in the skills necessary to implement the policy.
	Canada	Ensure all staff, health care providers and volunteers have the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the infant feeding policy.

Step 3	WHO	Inform pregnant women and their families about the benefits and management of breastfeeding.
	Canada	Inform pregnant women and their families about the importance and process of breastfeeding.

Step 4	WHO	Help mothers initiate breastfeeding within a half-hour of birth. WHO 2009: Place babies in skin-to-skin contact with their mothers immediately following birth for at least an hour. Encourage mothers to recognize when their babies are ready to breastfeed and offer help if needed.
	Canada	Place babies in uninterrupted skin-to-skin contact with their mothers immediately following birth for at least an hour or until completion of the first feeding or as long as the mother wishes. Encourage mothers to recognize when their babies are ready to feed, offering help as needed.

Step 5	WHO	Show mothers how to breastfeed and how to maintain lactation, even if they should be separated from their infants.
	Canada	Assist mothers to breastfeed and maintain lactation should they face challenges including separation from their infants.

Step 6	WHO	Give newborns no food or drink other than breastmilk, unless medically indicated.
	Canada	Support mothers to exclusively breastfeed for the first six months, unless supplements are <i>medically</i> indicated.

Step 7	WHO	Practice rooming-in - allow mothers and infants to remain together 24 hours a day.
	Canada	Facilitate 24-hour rooming-in for all mother-infant dyads: mothers and infants remain together.

Step 8	WHO	Encourage breastfeeding on demand.
	Canada	Encourage responsive, cue-based breastfeeding. Encourage sustained breastfeeding beyond six months with appropriate introduction of complementary foods.

Step 9	WHO	Give no artificial teats or pacifiers (also called dummies or soothers) to breastfeeding infants.
	Canada	Support mothers to feed and care for their breastfeeding babies without the use of artificial teats or pacifiers (dummies or soothers).

Step 10	WHO	Foster the establishment of breastfeeding support groups and refer mothers to them on discharge from the hospital or clinic.
	Canada	Provide a seamless transition between the services provided by the hospital, community health services and peer support programs. Apply principles of Primary Health Care and Population Health to support the continuum of care and implement strategies that affect the broad determinants that will improve breastfeeding outcomes.

The Code	WHO	Compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.
	Canada	Compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.