

Important Notice for U.S. Users of Wellstart International's Lactation Management Self-Study Modules, Level 1, Third Edition 2009

For official designation as a **Baby Friendly®* Hospital** by **Baby-Friendly USA, Inc. (BFUSA)** physicians involved in perinatal care of either mothers or babies in candidate hospitals do not need to complete an 18 hour course (soon to be 20 hour) but they must have at least 3 hours of acceptable breastfeeding management training. BFUSA has indicated that one of the ways this physician training requirement can be met is by using current evidence-based self-study modules. The Third Edition of the Wellstart Self-Study Modules meets these criteria. In addition, the Wellstart Self-Study Modules may be used by nurses and other maternity care staff to meet portions of the 18-20 hour training. Hospitals choosing to use this tool to meet these requirements need to maintain their own records indicating that their physician and maternity nursing staff have met these BFUSA requirements by completing the Self-Study tool. The records must include the physician's or staff member's name and date the modules were completed.

*To facilitate record keeping for hospitals choosing to use the Wellstart Modules to meet this requirement, Wellstart has developed a **Certificate of Completion** process. A "final exam" is now available without charge. If those who take this exam achieve a score of 80% or greater, a Certificate will be made available for downloading with the name of the candidate as well as the date of this achievement. This Certificate can be printed and given to the staff or faculty member who is maintaining the records. The link to this "final exam" process is available as Annex I (page 150) of the Self-Study Modules available on this site. This exam and certificate can also be used by faculty teaching courses to health professional students as an indication of successful completion of the modules as a independent study assignment. Note that the Post Test included in the Self-Study Modules for educational reasons is not the same as this "Final Exam".*

While Wellstart does not currently give CMEs for completion of the tool, some hospitals have elected to award continuing education certificates using their own hospital CE system. Approval from Wellstart is not required to do this but we would like to be informed if hospitals or organizations elect this approach. Scientific evidence has shown that The Baby Friendly Initiative is effective in both the increasing the initiation and duration of any breastfeeding as well as exclusive breastfeeding. We hope that this use of the Modules will make it easier for the hospitals to seek formal designation as a Baby Friendly Hospital.

Also, because the Modules are available without charge perhaps seeking designation will be more financially feasible. In addition, hospitals that are preparing for the Joint Commission's new perinatal care measure regarding normal term newborns and *Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding* may find the Modules of help in preparing their perinatal the staff (both doctors and nursing members) for decreasing the barriers to achieving *Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding* among term infants during their newborn hospitalization.

If you have any questions regarding the Self-Study Modules or these suggested uses for this tool, please feel free to contact Wellstart at info@wellstart.org.

Note: *Baby Friendly®* is a registered certification mark of UNICEF.