

Chest Feeding Guidelines for People Living with HIV

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IMPAACT

International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent
AIDS Clinical Trials Network

ANNUAL MEETING
2024

Notes on Inclusive Language

Some providers and patients prefer terms that are not gendered. This presentation tries to use terminology that is non-gendered.

We encourage teams to assess for and use terminology preferred by individual patients.

Key Messages

- There has been a monumental shift in the breast/chestfeeding (B/CF) recommendations for mothers and other parents with HIV in the United States and other high-income countries.
- US guidelines have been updated to support shared decision-making regarding infant feeding choices in people with HIV who are receiving treatment with sustained viral suppression.
- IMPAACT 2046 Study will leverage the IMPAACT network's expertise and experience conducting studies among women with HIV and their infants to address current knowledge gaps on infant feeding and HIV.

Benefits of Human Milk and Chestfeeding

For Mother and Other Parents

- Supports bonding
- Lower risk of breast and ovarian cancers
- Supports heart health
- Lower risk of:
 - Breast and Ovarian Cancer
 - Diabetes
 - High Cholesterol
 - High Blood Pressure
 - Postpartum Depression
- **PWH**
 - Avoid unwanted disclosure
 - Address health inequities

For Infants

- Human milk is rich in nutrients and ideal nutrition
- Antibodies in human milk protect infant from viruses and bacteria
- Lower risk of:
 - Ear infections
 - Chest infections
 - Allergies
 - Diabetes
- Benefits on neurodevelopment

Changes in Infant Feeding Guidance Over Time

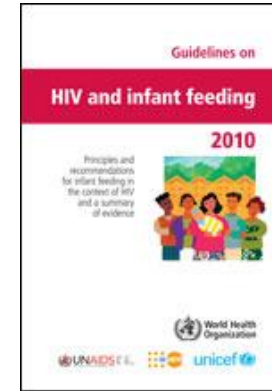


World Health
Organization



2003

Exclusive
chestfeeding and
gradual weaning



2010

ECF for 12-24
months
Mixed feeding
better than no CF
with ART

Replacement
feeding



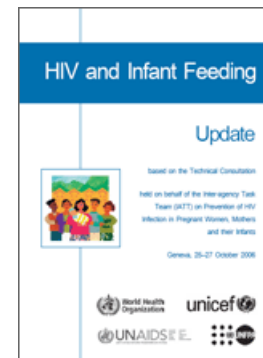
1997

Rapid weaning

2006

Exclusive
CF 6-12
months
with
prophylaxis
OR ART

2016



Why have guidelines changed in the US?



- Advocacy among PWH and providers
- Emerging research showing very low risk of HIV transmission in PWH on suppressive ART
- Use of better ART regimens



What are current US guidelines on infant feeding for PWH

There has been a slow evolution of the guidelines over time



US Guideline Agreement

- PWH should receive evidence-based counseling on infant feeding
- Shared decision-making between PWH and providers
- PWH on suppressive ART who choose either formula or chestfeeding should be supported
- PWH not on ART or without sustained viral suppression should be counseled to formula feed (or use donor milk)



American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Perspectives of Pregnant People Living With HIV



Not able to fulfill
their role as a
mother



Shame, guilt,
and stigma



Practical
difficulties of
formula feeding



Disclosure of HIV
status if not
breast/chestfeeding

US Health Care Provider Perspectives



THE WELL PROJECT 2024 INFANT FEEDING AND HIV SURVEY REPORT



Dramatic Shift in Healthcare Provider Support of Breast/Chestfeeding after 2023 Updates to US Perinatal HIV Clinical Guidelines

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SUPPORT

Before and After the 2023 Guideline Updates*



View survey report: bit.ly/BEEBAHsurvey

*Healthcare providers who indicated they were aware and familiar with the guideline updates (n=78) rated their level of support for breast/chestfeeding retrospectively.

BEEBAH is supported by
POSITIVE ACTION



What is known about the risks of HIV transmission during chestfeeding

- Studies on breastfeeding in pregnant people with HIV often do not have follow up through the entire breast/chestfeeding period
- Undetectable=Untransmittable is for sexual transmission of HIV and may not apply in breast/chestfeeding transmission
 - Consistent adherence is required
 - Time on ART matters
- Viral suppression is a prerequisite but not complete reassurance

Recent Studies with B/CF among PWH on ART

Study	Year	Location	N	Transmission rates	Notes
PROMISE	2018	India, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe	2431	0.3% at 6mo 0.6% at 12mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ART started in 2nd/3rd trimester or postpartum LPV/r-based ART 2 transmissions occurred in women with VL <40 just prior to detecting infant HIV
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Case Reports from high-income countries

No HIV transmission to infants who received human milk in reported cases

Year	Location	Number infants	Median duration BF	Infant prophylaxis
2019	Canada	3	10 weeks	3 drugs thru end of BF
2020	Belgium	2	18 weeks	2 drugs, 4 weeks
2021	Germany	42	20 weeks	1 drug, 2 weeks
2022	Italy	13	22 weeks	1 drug, 4 weeks
2022	Germany	30	12 weeks	1 drug, 2-8 weeks
2022	US - Baltimore	10	18 weeks	3 drugs x4-6 weeks, then 1 drug thru end of BF
2022	US - DC	7	24 weeks	1-2 drugs, 4-6 weeks
2023	US - Denver	13	8 weeks	1 drug thru end of BF
2023	US/Canada – multiple	72	24 weeks	Wide variability

In summary

- Replacement feeding (with formula or donor human milk) is the only feeding method with 0% risk of HIV transmission
- But risk of transmission via breast/chestfeeding is <1% if the parent is on ART with viral suppression

Approach to Infant Feeding Decisions

Infant Feeding Decision Making



THE WELL PROJECT 2024 INFANT FEEDING AND HIV SURVEY REPORT



Healthcare Provider Survey Respondents Comment on 2023 Infant Feeding Guideline Updates



“I think we are long past the time where we should tell parents living with HIV how to feed their children. As providers we should ensure that they are aware of risks and benefits, just like with all other decisions, and support them to the best choice for their families.”

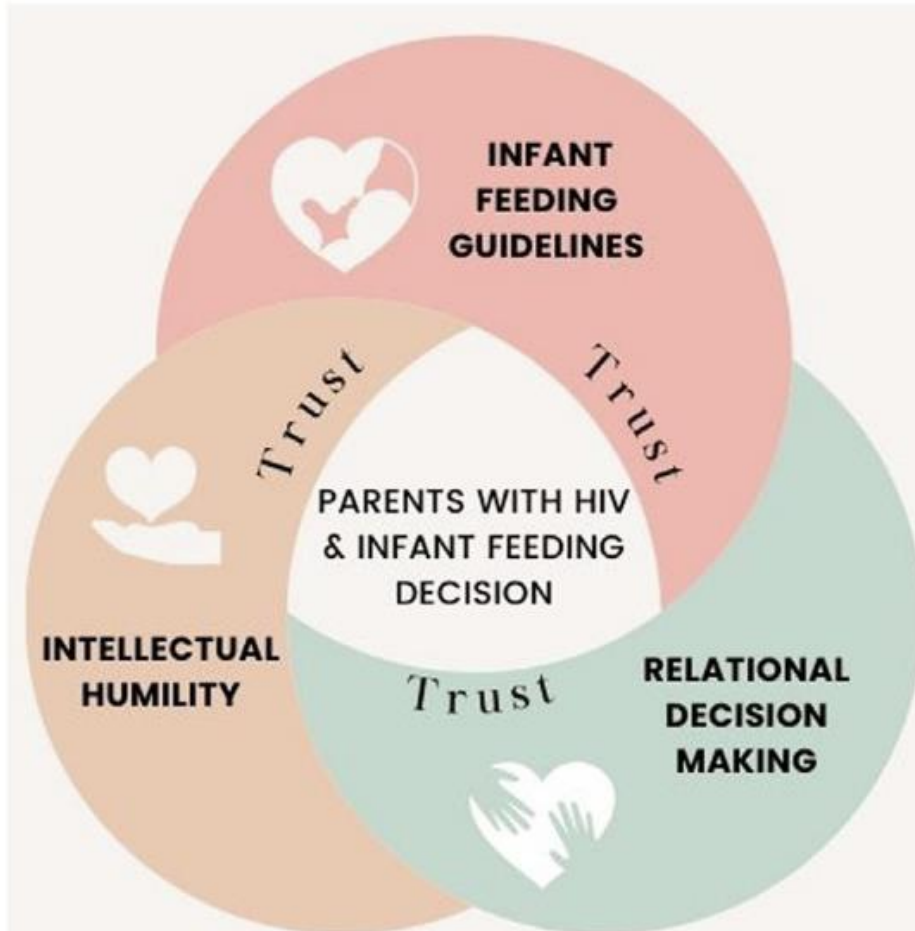
- 2024 s

“It will be crucial for providers to put this decision-making power back in the patient’s hands, which means providers must be thoroughly educated on the topic to avoid further stigma and misinformation.”

- 2024 survey respondent

View survey report: bit.ly/BEEBAHsurvey

BEEBAH is supported by
POSITIVE ACTION



Emily Barr, PhD, CPNP, CNM, FAAN
Cizik School of Nursing UTHouston, 2023

- **NEW EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE RECOMMENDATION**
 Sharing new knowledge while respecting the expertise of the health care team and patient autonomy to foster effective collaboration, trust, and improve patient outcomes.
- **RELATIONAL DECISION MAKING**
 Working in partnership using open and respectful communication while providing clear and balanced information to support trust and informed decision making. Relational decision making considers patient autonomy, the health of the newborn, the needs of the family, and socio-cultural factors
- **INTELLECTUAL HUMILITY**
 Supports relational decision making through openness to different perspectives, fostering trust, and having a willingness to revise one's beliefs and decisions in light of new evidence.

Infant Feeding Counseling

Pre-pregnancy/ Early pregnancy

- Open, non-judgmental
- Provider offers evidence-based information for all options
- Consider individual, family, community factors

Prior to delivery

- Follow up discussion
- Document
- Communicate with all providers and key individuals

After delivery

- Provide early support for success
- Monitor and address complications early
- Support ART adherence
- Reassess risk



Top 3 Ways Healthcare Providers Say They Can Support the Infant-Feeding Decisions of Women and Other Birthing Parents Living with HIV

- 1 **Initiate non-judgmental discussion(s)** around infant-feeding options
- 2 **Provide evidence-based information** on HIV transmission for all infant-feeding options
- 3 **Ensure the parent and infant's entire care team** (OB/GYN, ID, pediatrician, lactation consultant, doula, midwife, etc.) **is supporting the woman's decision** on how to feed her child





Top 3 Obstacles Healthcare Providers Face When Considering Infant-Feeding Decisions with Women and Other Birthing Parents Living with HIV

1

Lack of culturally responsive educational resources for women with HIV

2

Lack of support from others on the care team

3

Lack of explicit policies in my institution/organization that support breast/chestfeeding



During infant feeding

Support and ongoing care for chestfeeding parents and their infants

Care of breast/chestfeeding PWH

Care

- Continue ART
- Maintain undetectable viral load
- Regular viral load testing
- Screen and address postpartum depression and anxiety
- Explore need for financial, mental health or other psychosocial supports
- Provide guidance on breast care to avoid breast engorgement, sore nipples, mastitis, or breast abscess.

Support

- Postpartum adherence is a known challenge
- Lactation specialists
- Discuss and support:
 - exclusive chestfeeding
 - introduction of bottle
 - Introduction of solid foods (6 months)
 - Gradual weaning plan
 - Milk storage, return to work, travel etc.

Care of breast/chestfeeding infants

- Regular HIV testing
 - At least every 3 months during BF
 - 4-6 weeks, 3 months and 6 months after B/CF ends
- Monitor growth
- Recognize and manage infant illness (thrush, vomiting/diarrheal illnesses)
- Infant prophylaxis?
 - Extra layer of protection
 - Discuss medication, dosing, and duration
 - Possible additional bloodwork

IMPAACT's Opportunity to Contribute

Let's start with another set of slides



IMPAACT 2046

UPLIFT Study
(Understanding Parental
Lactation and Infant
Feeding decisions Tailored
to people with HIV)

CDC 1 U01PS005288-01-00 and NICHD

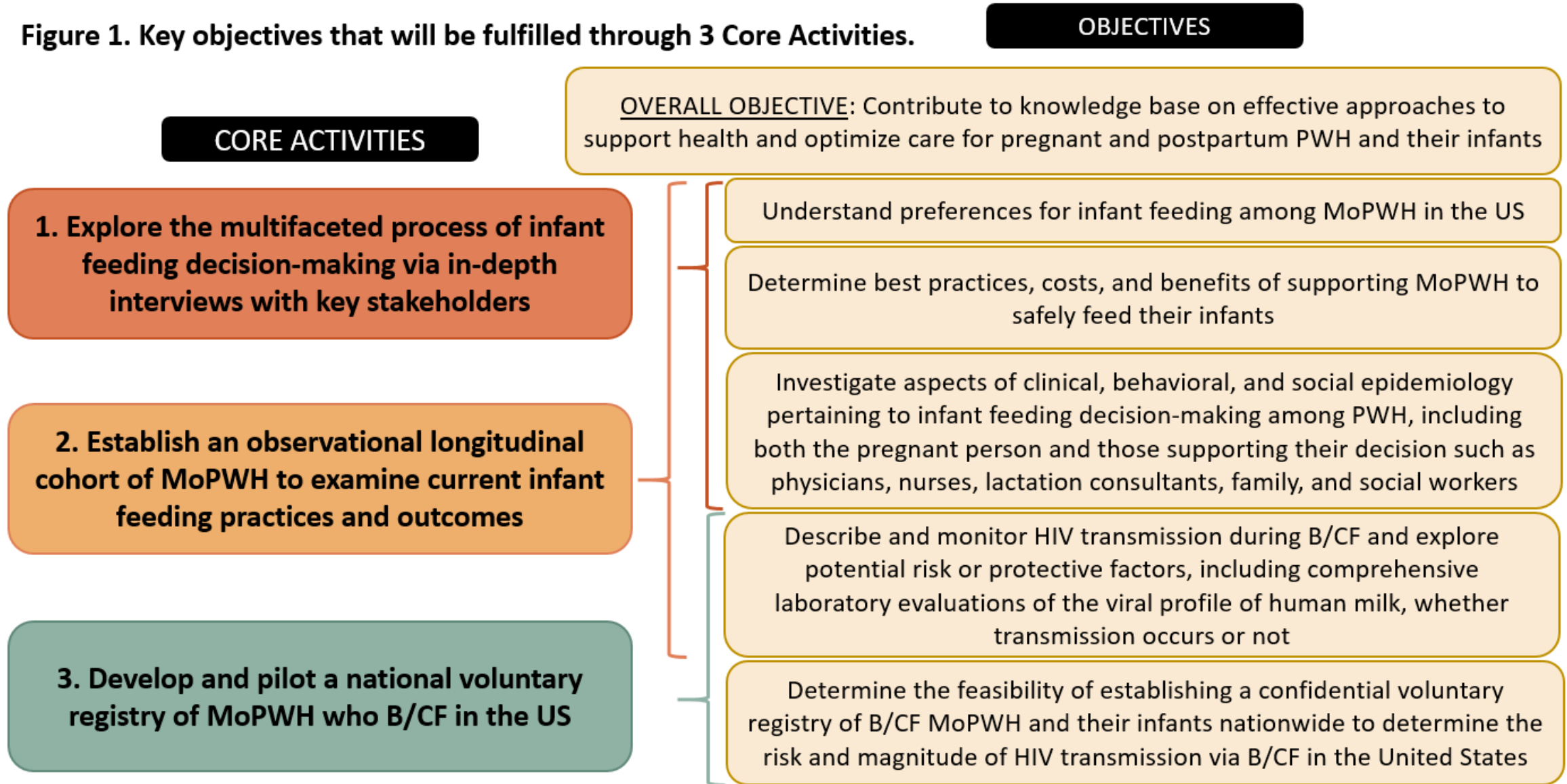
Overall goal:

To understand the infant feeding preferences, practices, and outcomes for mothers and other parents with HIV (MoPWH) in the US

Primary Objectives



Figure 1. Key objectives that will be fulfilled through 3 Core Activities.



For more information

National Clinical Consultation
Center
Perinatal HIV Hotline
(888) 448-8765

- Recommendations for the Use of Antiretroviral Drugs During Pregnancy and Interventions to Reduce Perinatal HIV Transmission in the United States: Infant Feeding for Individuals with HIV in the US
 - <https://clinicalinfo.hiv.gov/en/guidelines/perinatal/infant-feeding-individuals-hiv-united-states?view=full>
- The Well Project Expert Statement and Resources on BF and HIV in U.S. and Canada
 - <http://blog.catie.ca/2019/03/11/a-step-by-step-process-on-how-we-can-support-mothers-living-with-hiv/>
 - <https://www.thewellproject.org/hiv-information/expert-consensus-statement-breastfeeding-and-hiv-united-states-and-canada>
 - <https://www.thewellproject.org/hiv-information/breastfeeding-chestfeeding-and-hiv-supporting-informed-choices>
 - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fq1O3lHKwYdboyWaM CYhJ4QuR9RLpAgnH4fUm-H8w08/edit#gid=0>
- Is U=U applicable in Breastfeeding, Lynn Mofenson, Elizabeth Glazer Pediatric AIDS Foundation
 - <https://academicmedicaleducation.com/meeting/international-workshop-hiv-pediatrics-2020/video/session-4-undetectable-untransmittable>

Acknowledgements

**CDC 1 U01PS005288-01-00 and NICHD
UPLIFT Study Team
Well Project
Dr. Emily Barr
Mothers and other parents with HIV**



THANK YOU!

Any questions?

You can find me at

- Lisa.abuogi@childrenscolorado.org

Extra Slides

Let's start with another set of slides

Additional Provider Perspectives

2019 survey US Healthcare Providers (Tuthill et. al. JIAS)

- 93 respondents
- Over 75% reported having a PWH ask if they could breastfeed
- 29% reported caring for a patient who B/CF despite recommendations

2021 survey at over 80 institutions (Lai et. al., AID Patient Care STD)

- 100 respondents
- 86% had counseled PWH on infant feeding
- <50% had counseled or cared for a PWH during B/CF
- Providers reported discomfort with B/CF
- Some reported directive counseling against B/CF
- Perceived that non-White race, non-English language, and the presence of substance use, mental illness, and financial instability created barriers to B/CF

US-based Guidance on Infant Feeding for people with HIV

There has been a slow evolution of the guidelines over time



What are the recommendations for counseling mothers with HIV about feeding their infants?

Mothers who have questions about breastfeeding or who want to breastfeed should receive patient-centered, evidence-based counseling on infant feeding options, allowing for shared decision-making.

If mothers choose to breastfeed, providers should emphasize the importance of adherence to ART and sustained viral suppression and address challenges to ART adherence during the postpartum period.

Last reviewed: Feb 2, 2023



Panel's Recommendations

- People with HIV should receive evidence-based, patient-centered counseling to support shared decision-making about infant feeding. Counseling about infant feeding should begin prior to conception or as early as possible in pregnancy; information about and plans for infant feeding should be reviewed throughout pregnancy and again after delivery **(AIII)**. During counseling, people should be informed that—
 - Replacement feeding with properly prepared formula or pasteurized donor human milk from a milk bank eliminates the risk of postnatal HIV transmission to the infant **(AI)**.
 - Achieving and maintaining viral suppression through antiretroviral therapy (ART) during pregnancy and postpartum decreases breastfeeding transmission risk to less than 1%, but not zero **(AI)**.
- Replacement feeding with formula or banked pasteurized donor human milk is recommended to eliminate the risk of HIV transmission through breastfeeding when people with HIV are not on ART and/or do not have a suppressed viral load during pregnancy (at a minimum throughout the third trimester), as well as at delivery **(AI)**.
- Individuals with HIV who are on ART with a sustained undetectable viral load and who choose to breastfeed should be supported in this decision **(AIII)**.
- Individuals with HIV who choose to formula feed should be supported in this decision. Providers should ask about potential barriers to formula feeding and explore ways to address them **(AIII)**.
- Engaging Child Protective Services or similar agencies is not an appropriate response to the infant feeding choices of an individual with HIV **(AIII)**.

<https://clinicalinfo.hiv.gov/en/guidelines/perinatal/infant-feeding-individuals-hiv-united-states>

U.S. Health and Human Services

Panel on Treatment of HIV During Pregnancy and Prevention of Perinatal Transmission

Anticipated 2024 Updates Will Include:

Additional guidance on

- infant prophylaxis
- infant testing
- Viral load monitoring
- Complications

Updated: January 31, 2023

Reviewed: January 31, 2023

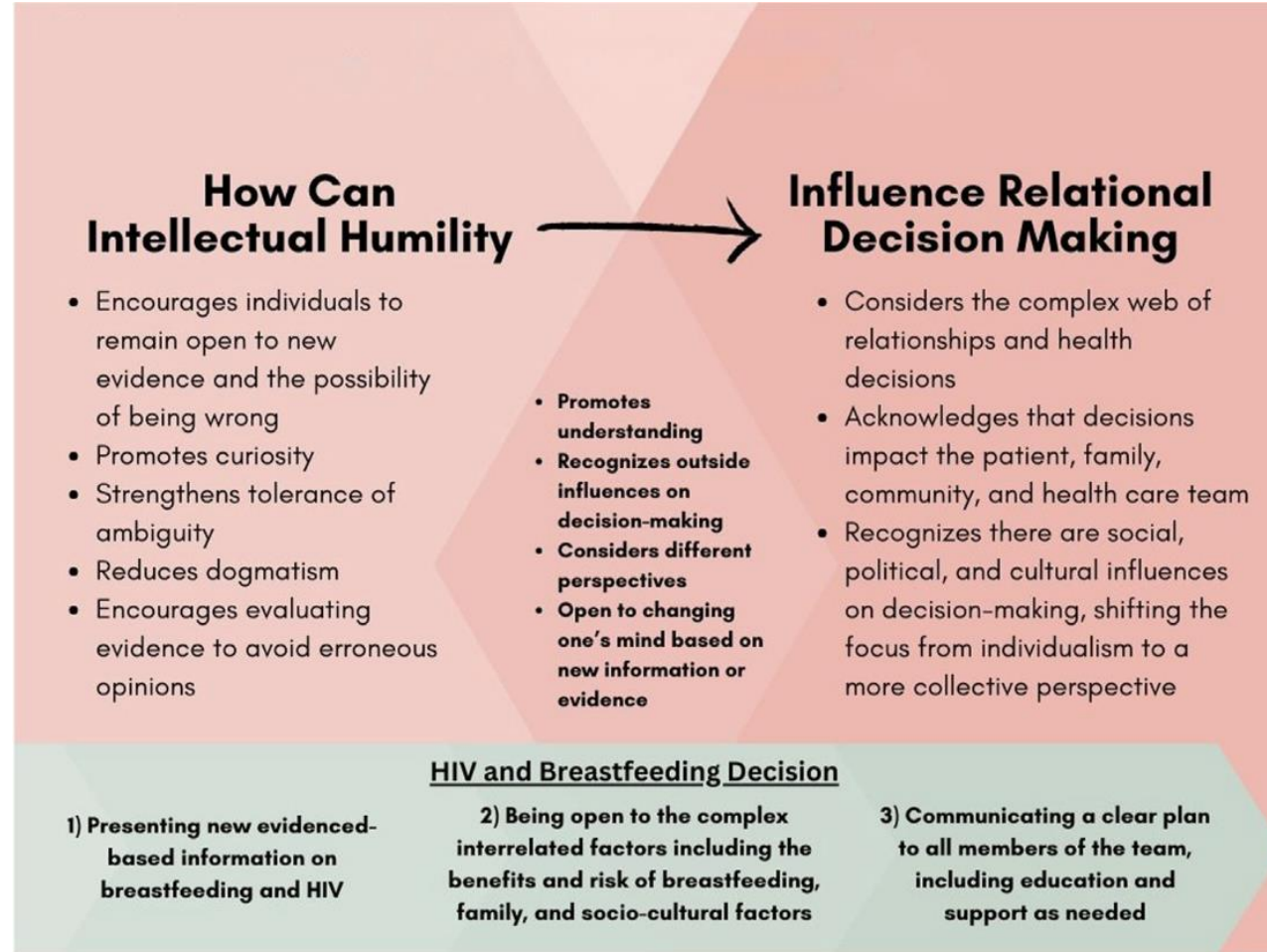
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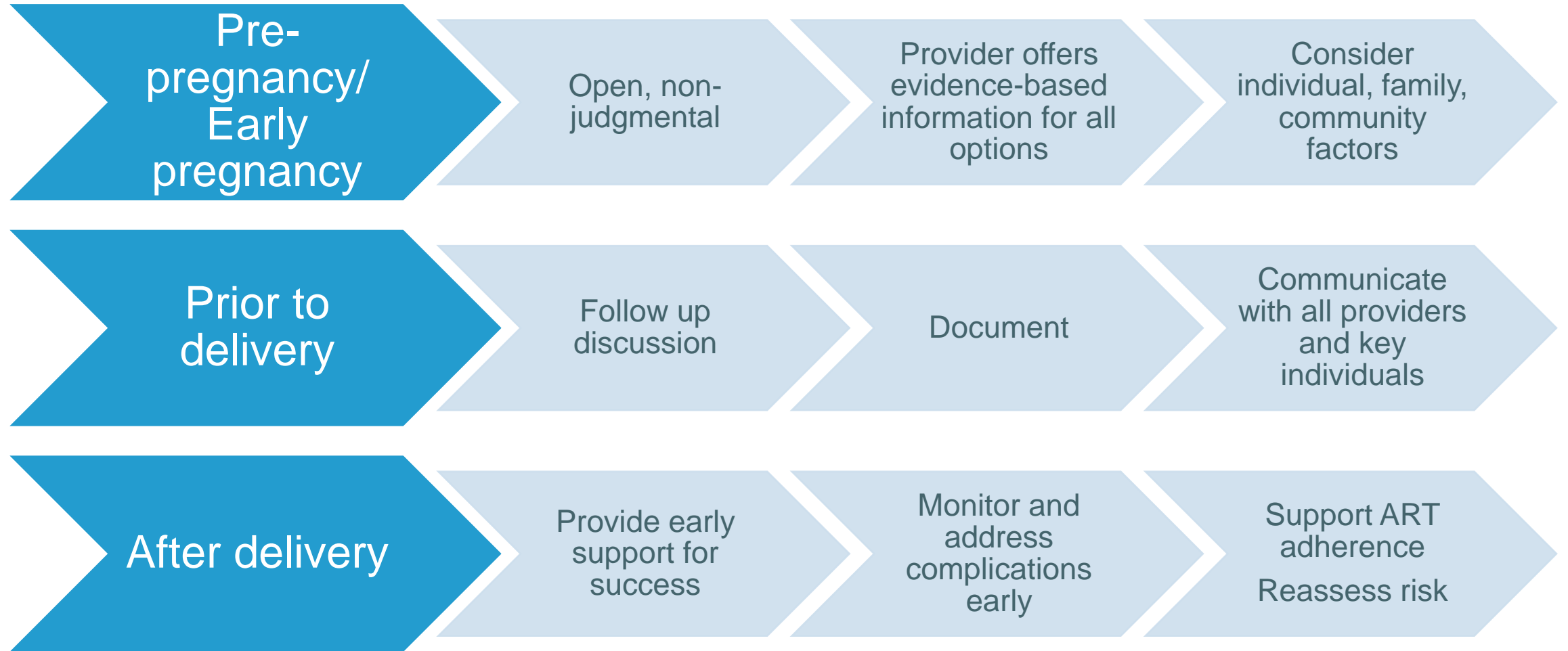
What We Know

- Timing of breast/chestfeeding (in the absence of ART)
 - Higher risk of transmission in first 1-2 months after birth (up to 6%)
 - Steady risk of transmission throughout breast/chestfeeding (0.6-0.9% risk per month)
- Maternal HIV viral load (plasma RNA) is related to viral load in breast milk but not perfectly correlated
 - For every 1 log increase in plasma VL, 0.6 log increase in breast milk VL
 - **People** who have detectable plasma VL more likely to transmit via breast/chestfeeding
- Impact of ART on HIV virus in breast milk
 - ART reduces HIV cell-free RNA but not HIV cell-associated DNA
 - HIV cell-associated DNA is higher in early breast milk
 - A very small proportion (<1%) of **people** with undetectable plasma VL may have low levels of virus in their breast milk





Infant Feeding Counseling



Infant management and monitoring

There is no consensus on appropriate management of ARV prophylaxis for infants of individuals with sustained viral suppression who are breastfed. (DHHS Panel)

Table 12. Infant Antiretroviral Prophylaxis for Newborns of Mothers With Sustained Viral Suppression Who Breastfeed

Newborns at Low Risk of HIV Acquisition During Breastfeeding	
Recommended Regimen	Recommended Duration
ZDV	ZDV administered for 2 weeks (see Table 11 for dosing)

Most Panel Members agree only 2 weeks of ZDV is needed as these infants should be low risk for HIV transmission.

Prolonged infant prophylaxis during B/CF is recommended by some pediatric HIV experts as an additional layer of protection.

Optional Extended Postnatal Prophylaxis for Newborns at Low Risk of HIV Transmission During Breastfeeding											
Optional Regimen	Optional Recommended Duration										
ZDV	ZDV administered for 4 to 6 weeks (see Table 11 for dosing)										
NVP	<p>Simplified Age-Based Dosing for Newborns ≥ 32 Weeks Gestation Receiving Extended NVP Prophylaxis During Breastfeeding^a</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Volume of NVP 10 mg/mL Oral Syrup Daily</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Birth to 6 weeks</td> <td>1.5 mL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 weeks to 6 months</td> <td>2.0 mL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 months to 9 months</td> <td>3.0 mL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 months to 1 to 4 weeks post-weaning</td> <td>4.0 mL</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age	Volume of NVP 10 mg/mL Oral Syrup Daily	Birth to 6 weeks	1.5 mL	6 weeks to 6 months	2.0 mL	6 months to 9 months	3.0 mL	9 months to 1 to 4 weeks post-weaning	4.0 mL
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Conditions that may increase risk of HIV transmission

(Often inadequate data to guide management)

- **Cracked/bleeding nipples**
- **Mastitis/engorgement/milk stasis**
 - Inflammation \Rightarrow increased cells in milk
 - Note - rapid weaning can precipitate these conditions
- **Trauma to infant mouth – e.g. frenectomy**
- **Infant thrush, if severe**
 - Mucosal disruption = portal for entry of HIV
- **Infant gastroenteritis, if severe**
 - Mucosal disruption = portal for entry of HIV
- **Preterm delivery (?)**
- **Mixed feeding (?)**

Management of B/CF Complications

- Temporary complications (mastitis, thrush, bleeding nipples)
 - Give previously stored milk from date prior to complication until resolved
 - Pump and flash heat milk
 - Provide replacement feeding temporarily (donor milk or formula)
 - Discontinue B/CF
- Detectable viral load
 - Stop B/CF (use options above)
 - Immediately repeat VL
 - If repeat VL remains detectable, discontinue B/CF permanently
 - Test infant for HIV
 - *Note, 2024 HHS guidelines will provide more detailed*