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**Title**

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**Publication Date**

2021

**Data Availability**

The data associated with this publication are not available for this reason: N/A

# Obstacles to Breastfeeding in Inpatient Pediatric Settings



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## Introduction

- Breastfeeding is important for both infant and maternal health
- Research regarding inpatient breastfeeding support outside the postpartum period is lacking

## Objective

- To identify the current level of support for breastfeeding parents during their child's hospitalization at UC Davis Children's Hospital

## Methods

- Conducted semi-structured interviews with breastfeeding parents during or following their child's hospitalization



Source: United States Breastfeeding Committee

## Representative Quotes

### Difficulty Feeding at the Breast

"...my daughter had all these lines in her so that couldn't really be moved, I couldn't really hold her correctly..."

### Pumping Challenges

"It was difficult to get equipment...And it seems like I was switching one pump with other women...to have to bother the nurses, to have them get the pump for me every 4 hours...it's not feasible."

### Lack of Privacy

"It was very difficult to find any private place to pump...I couldn't use the bathroom inside the room because it was shared with another patient next door."

### Difficulty Accessing a Lactation Consultant

"...she said that she could get a lactation consultant and I was really hopeful for that. But then...nobody was able to come so...I kind of had to just Google what to do and fix the problem myself."

## Themes

### Feeding at the breast

- Child illness
- Medical equipment
- Separation from infant
- Furniture and room setup

### Pumping Challenges

- Learning how to pump
- Access to pump and pumping supplies
- Access to storage for pumped milk

### Other challenges

- Lack of privacy
- Difficulty accessing lactation consultant
- Staff knowledge
- Miscommunication with medical team

## Conclusions

- Future quality improvement projects could focus on increased privacy and improved access to pumping supplies and lactation support