Summa Health System (SHS) employees will deliver care which is consistent with comprehensive, evidence based infant feeding practices, and consistent with the 10 Steps of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative.

SHS upholds the World Health Organization Code of Marketing of breast milk substitutes. Our staff is educated on the benefits and management of breastfeeding.

10 Steps of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative

To Support Breastfeeding

The following procedures will be followed to ensure that all staff is prepared to provide Baby Friendly Care:

Step 1: A comprehensive, evidence based infant feeding policy, incorporating the "10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding" has been shown to improve overall breastfeeding success.

Step 2: Educate all staff in skills to implement this policy

Step 3: Inform all pregnant women about the benefits and management of breastfeeding

Step 4: Help mothers initiate breastfeeding within an hour of birth

Step 5: Show mothers how to breastfeed and how to maintain lactation if they should be separated from their infants

Step 6: Give newborns no food or drink other than breast milk unless medically indicated

Step 7: Practice "rooming in" – allow mothers and infants to remain together 24 hours a day

Step 8: Encourage breastfeeding on demand

Step 9: No pacifiers or artificial nipples to breastfeeding infants

Step 10: Foster establishment of breastfeeding support groups and refer mothers to them on discharge from the hospital

SUMMA Health System