

Summary of ABM Clinical Protocol #21: Guidelines for Breastfeeding and Substance Use or Substance Use Disorder, Revised 2015

Reece-Stremtan, S., Marinelli, K. A., & Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine. (2015). ABM Clinical Protocol# 21: Guidelines for breastfeeding and substance use or substance use disorder, Revised 2015. *Breastfeeding Medicine*, 10(3), 135-141.

The following excerpt is from *ABM Clinical Protocol #21*, page 139. The entire document is available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4378642/pdf/bfm.2015.9992.pdf>

“General (Circumstances contraindicated or requiring more caution)

Counsel women under any of the following circumstances not to breastfeed (III):

- Not engaged in substance abuse treatment, or engaged in treatment and failure to provide consent for contact with counselor
- Not engaged in prenatal care
- Positive maternal urine toxicology screen for substances other than marijuana at delivery
- No plans for postpartum substance abuse treatment or pediatric care
- Women relapsing to illicit drug use or legal substance misuse in the 30-day period prior to delivery
- Any behavioral or other indicators that the woman is actively abusing substances
- Chronic alcohol use.

Evaluate carefully women under the following circumstances, and determine appropriate advice for breastfeeding by discussion and coordination among the mother, maternal care providers, and substance abuse treatment providers (III):

- Relapse to illicit substance use or legal substance misuse in the 90–30-day period prior to delivery
- Concomitant use of other prescription medications deemed to be incompatible with lactation
- Engaged later (after the second trimester) in prenatal care and/or substance abuse treatment
- Attained drug and/or alcohol sobriety only in an inpatient setting
- Lack of appropriate maternal family and community support systems
- Report that they desire to breastfeed their infant in order to either retain custody or maintain their sobriety in the postpartum period.”