



# Promoting Successful Breastfeeding

Saint Agnes Medical Center is committed to delivering a successful and satisfying experience to all mothers who elect to breastfeed. We accomplish this by arming mothers with consistent, evidence-based information about infant feeding to help them understand its many health benefits. Saint Agnes also joins Baby Friendly-USA in promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding through the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding for Hospitals, as outlined by UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO).

## Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding

1. Have a written breastfeeding policy that is routinely communicated to all health care staff.
2. Train all health care staff in the skills necessary to implement this policy.
3. Inform all pregnant women about the benefits and management of breastfeeding.
4. Help mothers initiate breastfeeding within one hour of birth.
5. Show mothers how to breastfeed and how to maintain lactation, even if they are separated from their infants.
6. Give infants no food or drink other than breast-milk, unless medically indicated.
7. Practice “rooming in” – allow mothers and infants to remain together 24 hours a day.
8. Encourage breastfeeding on demand.
9. Give no pacifiers or artificial nipples to breastfeeding infants.
10. Foster the establishment of breastfeeding support groups and refer mothers to them on discharge from the hospital or birth center.

**The Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding** form the basis of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, a worldwide breastfeeding quality improvement project created by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund.

Baby-Friendly hospitals and birth centers also uphold the World Health Organization’s International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes by offering education and educational materials that promote human milk rather than other infant food or drinks, and by refusing to accept or distribute free or subsidized supplies of breastmilk substitutes, nipples, and other feeding devices.



**Saint Agnes  
Medical Center**

Women and Infants Services

1303 E. Herndon Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93720

[www.samc.com](http://www.samc.com)

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