

# BREAST FEEDING POLICY FOR SPRING HOUSE MEDICAL CENTRE

## Introduction

The Practice understands the benefits of breastfeeding to both mothers and infants and supports staff members who wish to breastfeed their babies on their return to work after their maternity leave.

Breastfeeding includes expressing milk and the same rights under this policy will apply to employees who wish to express milk to give to their baby.

## Staff Policy

The Practice will:

- Inform all employees of the rights provided under this Policy as part of the Equal Opportunities Policy.
- Include this Policy in the induction programme for new staff.
- Inform all pregnant employees of the benefits of breastfeeding and their rights under this Policy.
- Perform a risk assessment in relation to employees who plan to continue breastfeeding after their maternity leave.
- The Practice Manager will be responsible for performing the risk assessment and will receive written notice of the employee's intention to continue breastfeeding or expressing milk on her return to work after their maternity leave.
- Make available a private, comfortable and appropriately equipped room for breastfeeding employees to feed their baby or express their milk. This could be any of the free consulting rooms after first checking there are no prescriptions in the printer or confidential data on the desk.
- A secure and clean fridge will be provided to store expressed milk. This is situated in the kitchen. Any expressed milk should be clearly labelled.

## Visitors / Patients Policy

The Practice will not discriminate against any woman in her chosen method of infant feeding and will fully support the visitor/patient.

- All mothers will be enabled and supported to feed their infants in the Practice premises.
- Signs welcoming breastfeeding will be displayed in the waiting room.
- The Practice will ensure that its staff members make comfortable arrangements for mothers who would prefer privacy to breastfeed.