If you are reviewing this tool kit we welcome you to the Baby-Friendly Journey!

In Connecticut, we used this tool kit in July 2010 to assist 10 hospitals towards the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, as part of the Connecticut Breastfeeding Initiative. When this project was created, hospitals still were entering the letter of intent pathway to become Baby-Friendly. Now the new 4 D Pathway has been announced from BFUSA. In the 4 D Pathway the hospital CEO signs a letter of intent to become Baby-Friendly in Discovery and then enters the Development phase. It is in this new Development phase of Baby-Friendly 4D Pathway that hospitals now receive many more current tools.

The information gathered in the Connecticut Breastfeeding Initiative tool kit is a compilation of information from the BFUSA website gathered in a user friendly binder format, excellent tools that the CBI consultant has gathered from multiple resources, and tools that the consultant has created. Of the tools that have been gathered some can be copied but some have copyrights and you’ll need to order them for your facility.

Many of the tools and the patient education handouts in this tool kit are still very useful, but we are writing this letter to encourage you to enter the 4 D pathway with BFUSA for the best success towards the next steps of dissemination and designation as a Baby-Friendly Hospital.

Once your hospital has entered the 4 D Pathway you will have the opportunity to join a national listserv where many hospitals share information and more tools for Baby-Friendly success. You will be able to have up to 5 employees on this list serve. It is a wealth of information. Here is just one example of a patient education tool that was recently offered with permission for other hospitals to use: http://www.sutterdavis.org/services/birthing_newmothers.html

In the development phase you will submit plans that BFUSA will review to help make sure you are on the right track toward success.

The Connecticut Breastfeeding Initiative had a consultant to teach the two day training for the ten hospitals. For your two-day education our best recommendation would be:

http://www.healthychildren.cc/Flyer20HourGA.pdf

Healthy Children has been updated for the new 20-hour requirement and has multiple options for training.

http://www.breastfeedingbasics.org/

Free and suitable for an update for staff that have already taken the 20 hours and suitable for the 3 hours for advanced practice health care professionals MD’s, Midwives, APRN’S, PA’s, NP’s. (Will no longer be free in 2013)
Remember that signing up officially with BFUSA and following the 4 D Pathway is always the best plan. Utilize the tools that are offered by BFUSA and use the tools in this Connecticut Breastfeeding Initiative (CBI) toolkit to supplement. After Discovery completion you will receive many tools from BFUSA. To complete Development and move into Dissemination, you will need to submit:

- Action Plan
- Policy
- Staff Education Plan
- Patient Education Plan
- Data Collection Plan

Baby Friendly will review these items and offer you feedback. Through the Connecticut Breastfeeding Initiative we assisted the ten hospitals through Discovery and Development into Dissemination. The tools for Development and Dissemination are proprietary and we cannot in this tool kit offer the examples, but each hospital will receive tools from BFUSA.

We were able to add some items to the tool kit during the work with the hospitals:

Step 1

- Policy updated and alternative feeding method protocols offered
- Ten steps posters 8 x 10 in English and Spanish for framing. Ease of use easy and inexpensive to frame for readiness for step 1.

Step 2

- Page to explain training nurses, suggestions for the 20 hours of training including the 5 hours competency and, suggestions for the training the 3 hours of Advanced practice training.

Step 3 and 10

- Prenatal Breastfeeding Class Outline

Step 4-9

- Invisible cord: Keep mom and baby together
- Guidelines and criteria were proprietary but now available on the BFUSA web site. http://www.babyfriendlyusa.org/eng/index.html
- Pocket guide for nurses to review before survey was created by taking just the info for Nurses from guidelines and criteria.

- Mock survey worksheet for staff to review to prepare for survey was also created from Guidelines and criteria.

- Cover sheet to explain use of toolkit was added.

- Additional tool offered for data collection monthly tally for Mothers survey reporting.

Connecticut wishes you great success on your Baby-Friendly Journey!