



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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Twenty Colorado hospitals to receive awards for supporting breastfeeding

DENVER – Twenty Colorado hospitals will receive awards from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on Sept. 18 for implementing best practices to support breastfeeding. Last year, the department recognized 13 hospitals. There now are 33 hospitals – more than half of all Colorado birthing hospitals – that give new mothers the support they need to start and continue breastfeeding.

“Our Colorado hospital community is making great strides in supporting breastfeeding for new mothers,” said Dr. Chris Urbina, executive director and chief medical officer for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. “We know breastfeeding can help prevent childhood obesity and reduce the risk of many childhood illnesses. The majority of new mothers want to breastfeed, and these hospitals play a vital role in giving babies a healthy start.

Hospitals that receive the Colorado Can Do 5! breastfeeding award implement five best practices:

1. The infant is breastfed in the first hour after birth.
2. The infant is fed only breast milk in the hospital.
3. The infant stays in the same room with the mother in the hospital.
4. The infant does not use a pacifier in the hospital.
5. Hospital staff gives each mother a telephone number to call for help with breastfeeding after being discharged from the hospital.

Supporting mothers in their breastfeeding efforts is effective and inexpensive early intervention to the prevention of obesity, one of the state’s Winnable Battles. By 2016, the department’s goal is to increase the percentage of mothers who report some breastfeeding of their infants at 6 months of age from 61 percent to 65 percent.

Tomorrow the 2012 awards will be given to hospital representatives during the Colorado Hospital Breastfeeding Summit: Using Evidence-based Maternity and Infant Care Practices at the DoubleTree by Hilton in the Denver Tech Center. The following hospitals will receive the Colorado Can Do 5! award:

Aurora

- The Medical Center of Aurora
- University of Colorado Hospital

Colorado Springs

- St. Francis Medical Center

Delta

- Delta Memorial Hospital

Denver

- Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital
- Presbyterian/St Luke's Medical Center

Englewood

- Swedish Medical Center

Estes Park

- Estes Park Medical Center

Frisco

- St. Anthony Summit Medical Center

Littleton

- Littleton Adventist Hospital

Lone Tree

- Sky Ridge Medical Center

Longmont

- Longmont United Hospital

Louisville

- Avista Adventist Hospital

Loveland

- Medical Center of the Rockies

Parker

- Parker Adventist Hospital

Pueblo

- Parkview Medical Center

Sterling

- Sterling Regional Medical Center

Westminster

- St. Anthony North Hospital

Wheat Ridge

- Exempla Lutheran Medical Center

Yuma

- Yuma District Hospital