



## Licensure Facts and FAQ for Minnesota Lactation Professionals

### Why license lactation consultants?

#### 1. Protection for families

Anyone can call themselves a lactation consultant, whether having three hours of lactation education or having met the rigorous requirements to become an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). Many times families seeking lactation help receive sub-optimal care leading to poor outcomes. By licensing lactation consultants, families and health care providers will know they are receiving services provided by a professional who has met the standards to be licensed for *clinical* lactation care.

#### 2. Increased access to qualified lactation professionals

Without licensure, mothers and babies will continue to be denied access to the professional breastfeeding help that they need. Licensure is part of the path to insurance coverage and reimbursement from private insurance and Medicaid. It is the only way *all mothers* can have access to the level of lactation care that they need in a timely manner. Disparity in care occurs when mothers who cannot afford to pay out of pocket for lactation services are denied that service. Insurers will not cover services by an unlicensed provider. Licensing lactation consultants will decrease those health disparities for mothers and babies. Reimbursement by MA and other insurers will assist in increasing the availability of lactation professionals in hospitals and clinics.

#### 3. Who will be required to become licensed?

Anyone providing *clinical* lactation care in Minnesota will be required to become a licensed lactation consultant. This does not include those who are: currently licensed health care professionals, employed by the federal, state or local government agencies, provide volunteer or peer-to-peer breastfeeding support or those who provide education and support about the normal course of breastfeeding.

#### 4. What will it cost to become licensed?

Fees will be determined by the licensing agent as the bill moves through the legislative process. The cost of licensure must be cost neutral to the state and paid for by those who are licensed. License fees for other non-physician providers range from \$80 to \$330 for an initial two-year license.

#### 5. How can I help?

- a. Sign up to show your support on the Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition website:  
<http://mnbreastfeedingcoalition.org/licensure/>
- b. Make a donation to the Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition to help with the ongoing costs of supporting the bill to license lactation consultants:  
<http://mnbreastfeedingcoalition.org/donate/>

#### 6. Contact the Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition with any questions: [mnbreastfeedingcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:mnbreastfeedingcoalition@gmail.com)