

Call for Manuscripts for Special Issue: Ethics and Lactation

JHL is soliciting manuscripts about ethical issues pertaining to lactation and breastfeeding or chestfeeding for the February 2020 issue. Ethical discussions of these topics have been limited despite the short- and long-term health benefits to the individuals involved as well as to community health and wellbeing.

Manuscript submissions regarding any aspects of this topic are welcome. Sample topics include but are not limited to:

- Health care professionals' roles in: (a) educating parents about the differences between human milk/breastfeeding and human milk substitutes/bottle feeding, (b) providing evidence-based information about the short- and long-term benefits of human milk/breastfeeding, (c) making recommendations about infant feeding, and (d) supporting parents' autonomy and informed decision making about feeding their infant and young child;
- Breastfeeding and development of child autonomy;
- Breastfeeding and child health optimization (e.g., breastfeeding exclusivity and duration; pumped milk vs. feeding from the breast; maternal lifestyle effects on breastmilk content);
- Infant human rights (i.e., for optimal nourishment, which is breast milk);
- Lack of access to lactation care (e.g., due to cost or lack of IBCLCs reflective of minority communities);
- Lack of lactation support from family and community (e.g., from a lack of education about the importance of breast milk and breastfeeding; or, being part of a racial or ethnic group in which breastfeeding is not the cultural norm);
- Inequities in workplace lactation support (e.g., women working in male majority professions and trades, warehouses, meat processing plants, restaurants, retail, and prison staff);
- Barriers to lactation for special populations (e.g., military personnel, pilots, prisoners);
- Healthcare policies and practices (e.g., "baby-unfriendly" practices such as mother-neonate separation, feeding infants formula or sugar water for no medical reason, providing free samples and advertising of infant formula; hospitals with childbirth centers but no follow-up lactation service);
- Lack of paid parental leave to begin and maintain breastfeeding;
- Public distaste for and harassment of breastfeeding parents in public;
- Unethical media and advertising (e.g., promoting bottle and formula feeding as normal baseline, or describing breastfeeding as the best way to feed infants while including subtle messages that breastfeeding is difficult and weaning to infant formula is also a good choice); and
- Government regulation (e.g., state statutes and federal law concerning workplace lactation support that do not include means of enforcement; lack of state laws intended to increase access to IBCLC care).

The editors welcome original research, literature reviews, case studies, insights into policy and practice. We also welcome e-mail inquiries concerning specific ideas for manuscripts for this special issue. Submit your manuscript at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jhl>

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