



## EVERYDAY ETHICS FOR LACTATION CONSULTANTS

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### ASSESSMENT PAPER

#### Method of Assessment

Assessment will take the form of a multi-part test, which is included with this study module. It comprises:-

- Part A -** 10 Multiple choice questions worth **20%** of the final mark
- Part B -** 10 True/False questions worth **20%** of the final mark
- Part C -** 2 short answer questions worth **30%** of the final mark and  
1 case study worth **30%** of the final mark

Candidates will need to obtain a mark of **65%** or above in this test to meet the standards required for the awarding of E CERP's

Assessment is available once payment for the module has been made to Mothers Direct, the sales division of the Australian Breastfeeding Association/Lactation Resource Centre.

Please go to [www.mothersdirect.com.au](http://www.mothersdirect.com.au). (Health Professionals – Continuing Education) and select the *online* version of the module and place your order.

The Lactation Resource Centre will email you a reference number to be inserted on the Answer Sheet (Section 5) within two business days of your order.

The completed answer sheet may be returned by email (or printed and posted).

EMAIL: Return Sections 5 and 6 as attachments to [lrc@breastfeeding.asn.au](mailto:lrc@breastfeeding.asn.au) with 'Study Module 070 – Ethics' in subject line. Please *do not* include the answers in the body of your email.

POST: Lactation Resource Centre  
PO Box 4000  
Glen Iris 3146 VIC  
Australia.

Allow up to three weeks for assessing. Your certificate will be mailed to you.



## Part A: Multiple-choice questions

Refer to the Code of Ethics and other readings as necessary to choose the best response.

### Question 1

**An IBCLC who is drinking alcohol at a party may not ethically advise a friend on her breastfeeding problem, according to which tenet of the CoE?**

- a) The CoE does not apply
- b) Tenet 6
- c) Tenet 19
- d) Tenet 8

### Question 2

**Tenet 7 of the CoE implies that an IBCLC should**

- a) attend conferences regularly
- b) read research papers
- c) use personal experience to guide her/his practise
- d) understand clinical implications of research findings

### Question 3

**An IBCLC may discuss a client's personal information**

- a) only with other IBCLCs
- b) only with the client's permission
- c) with the client's doctor
- d) after a period of five years

### Question 4

**With respect to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes (WHO code) the IBCLC's Code of Ethics DOES NOT require that**

- a. IBCLCs are familiar with the relevant clauses
- b. IBCLCs uphold the articles relevant to health professionals
- c. IBCLCs report breaches of the WHO code to the IBLCE Discipline Committee
- d. IBCLCs encourage and protect breastfeeding

### Question 5

**Tenet 11 implies that IBCLCs must**

- a) refrain from recommending a particular brand of breast pump for their clients
- b) maintain client records in a secure filing system
- c) inform clients of the health implications of suggested management techniques
- d) refrain from recommending particular management techniques

**Question 6****Tenet 13 implies that an IBCLC must not**

- a) collect CERPS for seminars he/she did not attend
- b) allow another IBCLC to copy answers to an independent study module assesement
- c) collude in an attempt to defraud an insurance company
- d) a and b

**Question 7****Tenet 14 requires that an IBCLC will not**

- a) collect CERPS for seminars he/she did not attend
- b) allow another IBCLC to copy answers to an independent study module assesement
- c) collude in an attempt to defraud an insurance company
- d) a and b

**Question 8****According to Tenet 22, an IBCLC must report another IBCLC to the IBLCE Discipline Committee if**

- a) she engages in the use of illegal stimulants when not practising
- b) she illegally provides medications to her clients
- c) she disagrees with her management of breastfeeding problems
- d) she is intolerant of religious diversity

**Question 9****The ethical requirement to maintain continuing education (Tenet 7) comes from the basic principle of**

- a) respect for autonomy
- b) beneficence
- c) justice
- d) patient confidentiality

**Question 10****Copyright law covers**

- a) written material, pictures and trademarks etc
- b) photographs, illustrations, written material, etc
- c) patented designs for lactation aids
- d) intellectual property rights

**Part B: True /False questions**

11. Tenet 5 of the CoE prohibits IBCLCs from selling lactation aids.
12. An IBCLC must obtain permission to use a photograph of a client as an educational tool.
13. An IBCLC may not accept a gift from a former client.
14. IBCLCs recertifying by CERPS need at least 5 Ethics CERPS in their total of 75 CERPS
15. The Ethics and Discipline Committee of the IBLCE may permanently revoke the certification of an IBCLC
16. IBCLCs may choose not to provide professional services to a potential client on the grounds of incompatible religious beliefs
17. An IBCLC may choose not to provide professional services to a potential client on the grounds that the client is unable to pay for those services
18. An IBCLC must report to the IBLCE Ethics and Discipline Committee any colleague who recommends the use of cabbage leaves to reduce engorgement in line with tenets 7 and 22
19. All copyright material is marked by the © symbol.
20. The IBLCE's Discipline Committee does not concern itself with whether IBCLC's practice is legal.

**Part C: Short answer questions (worth 15% each)**

Ethics is an area open to debate and there may not be one 'right' answer to ethical questions. These short answer questions allow IBCLCs to explore the issues involved in these ethical decisions. You do not need to resolve the issues, but your answers should show that you are aware of the elements of a dilemma.

21. A client reveals that she uses illegal drugs, but forbids the IBCLC to pass this information on to her medical practitioner. What ethical issues does this raise for the IBCLC?

22. Conflict of interest is possible if an IBCLC combines private practice as a lactation consultant with retail distribution of lactation aids. Discuss the issues and how conflict of interest could be avoided.

**Part C: Case study (worth 30%)**

23. Using the case study below and referring to the ILCA 'Standards of Practice' (SOP) Standard 3, outline how you would assess, plan, implement and evaluate a program of lactation management for the mother if she was in your care on day 5, given that the baby and mother are hospital inpatients, so still under the care of doctors.

Your answer should cover such points as these (but may cover more):

- For your assessment (SOP 3.1) what information would you seek from the mother?
- What are the important elements of your plan? (SOP 3.2)
- How would you help the mother implement the plan? (SOP 3.3) What do you need to tell other health professionals who are seeing this mother?
- What evaluation will be needed? What outcomes will measure the success of your plan? (SOP 3.4)
- Point out how ethical considerations affect your plan.

**Case study**

Baby's delivery was quick and straightforward. Mother was experienced (had three other children) and felt that baby did not attach well to breast. Baby's lips looked OK, baby opened mouth to take nipple, but mother couldn't feel suction and baby couldn't stay attached. Over the first 24 hours baby was sleepy, then at midnight on day 2 he woke and demanded feeds frequently. Wet nappies were frequent at first, then declined - up to eight hours between wet nappies and only small amounts of urine.

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Mother concerned about:

- baby's breath smells 'of acetone'
- baby is very sensitive to noise, frightened by noises, then screams inconsolably
- little urine produced, mother using cloth nappies to detect any urine passed
- urine smells strongly
- no bowel motions since day 2
- by day 4 baby is lethargic (floppy) and only comforted by lying on mother's chest
- urine test shows signs of dehydration.

Mother concerned that baby is not getting enough milk, secondarily that milk supply may dwindle, or she may get mastitis. Midwife refuses request for electric pump because that will increase supply and result in engorgement. Mother is frustrated with lack of concern from staff and has lost trust in their knowledge.

LC diagnoses weak suction, tongue in a raised position preventing good attachment and receding chin.

Ethical practise is intertwined in every clinical interaction, and this case study is intended to exemplify how ethical and clinical practise are both part of the lactation consultants' role.