**DIVISION SCOPE OF SERVICE**

<table>
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<th>Division: MOUNTAIN</th>
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<tr>
<td>DHP Classification: LACTATION CONSULTANT</td>
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<td>Name of Dependent Healthcare Professional (DHP):</td>
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**Lactation Consultant:**
The Lactation Consultant must have equivalent qualifications, competence and function in the same role as employed individuals performing the same or similar services at the facility, as defined by facility job description.

**Definition of Care or Service:**
The Lactation Consultant serves as a clinical expert for lactation and breastfeeding. The LC provides in-depth, individual assistance for mothers and families experiencing routine or complex circumstances associated with lactation and breastfeeding. The Lactation Consultant encourages the support of breastfeeding through patient consultation, staff education and implementation of current, evidence-based breastfeeding policies and procedures. Scope of service may include:

- Provides direct patient care as part of the lactation team, working with normal and high-risk patients of all ages.
- Works as a member of the healthcare team with nurses and physicians.
- Performs and/or manages the following safely and efficiently:
  - Performing comprehensive maternal, child and feeding evaluations related to lactation
  - Developing and implementing an individualized feeding plan in consultation with the mother
- Effectively communicates plan and follow-up as necessary to provide continuity of patient care
- Document all patient contacts
- Consults with other healthcare professionals as needed
- Participates in the development of breastfeeding guidelines, protocols, and patient education materials.
- Provides formal and informal teaching to parents and hospital staff.
- Assists in data collection and subsequent program development and implementation that improve outcomes for breastfeeding women and infants.
- Acts as an advocate for breastfeeding in the community, workplace and within all healthcare professions
- Assist in the maintenance of current breastfeeding reference materials as a resource for the healthcare team.
- Demonstrates Clinical and Service excellence behaviors to include code of HCA conduct core fundamentals in daily interactions with patients, families, co-workers and physicians.

**Setting(s):**
- Hospitals: Labor and Delivery, Neonatal Unit, Nursery

**Supervision:**
- Supervised by Director of Peri-natal Services and attending physician

**Evaluator:** Department director or designee

**Qualifications:**
- Associates/ Bachelor’s degree
- Clinical practice in lactation and breastfeeding care, along with education in human lactation and breastfeeding or
- Completion of an academic program in lactation that includes the clinical practice hours and lactation education or
- Clinical practice in breastfeeding support through a Recognized Mother Support Counsellor Organization

Revised 7/6/2017
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- Volunteer, accredited mother-to-mother breastfeeding support counsellors such as La Leche League Leaders and Australian Breastfeeding Association Counsellors
- Paid or volunteer mother support counsellors who work within a health care delivery organization such as a hospital, birth centre or community clinic
- Educated in one of the Recognized Health Professions
  - Dentist
  - Dietician
  - Midwife
  - RN or LPN
  - Occupational Therapist
  - Pharmacist
  - Physical Therapist or Physiotherapist
  - Physician or Medical Doctor
  - Speech Pathologist or Therapist
- IBCLC (International Board Certified Lactation Consultant) or RLC (Registered Lactation Consultant)
- American Heart Association health care provider BLS Certification

Experience:
One year experience in lactation consulting

Competencies:
The Lactation Counselor will demonstrate:
- Safe and effective operation of related equipment
  - Maintains equipment in good working order
  - Demonstrates effective infection control practices related to equipment operation
- Accurate patient information review and evaluation
  - Uses at least two ways to identify patients before treating or performing a procedure
  - Verifies that the requested procedure correlates with the patient’s clinical history, presentation and physician order
  - Accesses the patient medical record appropriately
  - Documents in the medical record according to the facility standard / policy
- Maintains a safe environment
- Infection Prevention
  - Practices consistent hand hygiene
  - Uses personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Required immunizations per DHP Division requirements
  - Complies with isolation precautions
- Demonstrates skills to assist breastfeeding dyad
- Provide education for the mother and her family regarding the breast feeding dyad
- Provide information and strategies to minimize the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and provide anticipatory guidance to reduce potential risks to the breastfeeding mother or her child
- Documents patient contacts, assessments, feeding plans, recommendations and evaluations of care
- Work collaboratively with the health care team to provide coordinated services to families

References:

Education Pathways
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https://iblce.org/certify/pathways/
http://lactationeducationconsultants.com/requirements.shtml

DHP Printed Name: ________________________  DHP Signature: ________________________
Company/Vendor: ________________________  Date: ________________________