

Role Playing Exercise (Communication Skills)

Conduct a role play exercise with learners involving a physician providing peripartum support to a lactating parent. Continue the role play by adding a scenario in which the pediatric provider discusses the case with the lactating patient's obstetrician and/or vice versa. The purpose of this activity is to exemplify the importance of communication with patients and among different specialties of physicians when providing breastfeeding support.

Assign learners to these three roles:

1. Woman who gave birth 24 hours ago who is successfully breastfeeding her newborn but has questions about breastfeeding
2. Pediatric provider making rounds on the postpartum unit
3. Obstetrician, family physician, or nurse/midwife

Part I:

This family is new to the provider practice, and the mother's nurse has advised that the mother has questions about breastfeeding. The pediatric provider should act out interviewing the mother and assess breastfeeding.

(The supervising faculty or senior residents can use the Communications Skills Role [Playing Part I evaluation tool](#) to assess this interaction. Note that the categories listed are not exclusive and the provider should follow up on the mother's answers.)

Part II:

The mother tells the pediatric provider that her obstetrician has written discharge orders for her. She is reluctant to go home so early because she is not confident with breastfeeding yet. She asks what kind of formula she should get in case the baby isn't feeding well enough. Have the learners act out this scenario.

(The supervising faculty or senior residents can use the [Communications Skills Role Playing Part II evaluation tool](#) to assess the interaction.)

Part III:

Ask the person portraying the pediatric provider to conduct a phone call with the obstetrician (family physician or nurse/midwife) to discuss the coordination of discharge planning and outline their recommendation to observe mother and newborn breastfeeding for an additional 12-24 hours.

(The supervising faculty or senior resident can use the Communications Skills Role Playing [Part III evaluation tool](#) to assess the interaction.)