

September 10, 2008

Ms. Lynsay Skiba
Justice Now
1322 Webster Street, Suite 210
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Skiba,

Please find attached, the answers to the questions you presented to us regarding pregnancy, delivery and postpartum health care at Valley State Prison for Women (V.S.P.W.) and the California Institution for Women (C.I.W.).

We hope you will find this information meets your needs. If you have any further comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,


Tim Rougeux
Chief Operating Officer
Medical Services

cc: C. Kelso, Receiver
T. Hill, M.D. – CEO Medical Services

CALIFORNIA
PRISON HEALTH CARE
RECEIVERSHIP CORP.

J. Clark Kelso, Receiver

26. What is the protocol for breastfeeding?

VSPW – Does not have a protocol for breast-feeding. Inmate/patients may return from the hospital with a breast-pump if they are paroling soon or going to CPMP. The inmate/patient is supplied with a "chrono" allowing her to keep the pump.

At CIW we are in the process of establishing procedures for a lactation program. This program will allow inmates to express their milk and have it picked up by a person designated by the caregiver of the child. Breastfeeding will be available to inmates housed in the nursery when it opens.

27. Is any support provided for breastfeeding (breast pumps, storage, lactation consultants, etc.)?

VSPW – See #22.

CIW - Pumps are offered to interested mothers upon discharge from the hospital. Storage bags are not offered at this time, but will be available for inmates in the lactation program. Support/consultation can be provided by 'loving support', a breastfeeding helpline offered by riverside County Department of Public Health. This agency has already supplied CIW with several pumps for the inmate population, as well as resource books. Recently, on an urgent basis, we obtained the pump, froze and stored the breast milk and made arrangements for an outside caregiver, selected by the mother to come on a regular basis to collect the frozen breast milk. If the mother has not been taught how to use the pump, etc. our RNNP does the education/training.

28. Is sterilization ever offered to pregnant/birthing people?

VSPW – Yes, in certain circumstances

CIW - Post partum tubal ligation are performed.