



### **USLCA supports IBCLC as a standalone credential**

The United States Lactation Consultant Association (USLCA) strongly supports the utilization of the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) as an integral member of the healthcare team in all settings, including, but not limited to: hospitals, community health clinics, physician offices, and private practice. It is the position of USLCA that any IBCLC, regardless of previous training in a healthcare discipline or concurrent healthcare credentials, may be employed and utilized to perform clinical lactation care.

Individuals who have earned their IBCLC credential possess a unique set of skills via rigorous training to provide clinical lactation care in a variety of settings. The training requirements established and evaluated by the International Board of Lactation Examiners® (IBLCE®) confirm that those who hold the credential are prepared to perform specialized lactation care to breastfeeding families.

As the recognized body that confers the IBCLC credential, the IBLCE has established the requirements and process for an individual to become certified, including the multiple pathways one may enter for the required pre-exam preparation process. There is no requirement for an individual to be trained or certified in any other healthcare discipline. Regardless of the preparation pathway chosen, the examining board verifies that every individual who passes the IBCLC exam has the qualifications and completed the required education and training to perform the duties of an IBCLC.

As such, it is completely appropriate to employ an IBCLC to perform all clinical lactation care duties in any setting even if the individual holds no other healthcare credential or certification.

**IBLCE Scope of Practice:** <https://iblce.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/scope-of-practice-2018.pdf>

**Model job description:** <http://uslca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Model-job-description.pdf>

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