



## **USLCA Position Statement on a multidisciplinary approach to infant feeding disorders**

### **Background**

Breastfeeding, sometimes known as chestfeeding, is the bio normative way for infants to receive the nutrients they need for growth and development. The World Health Organization and American Academy of Pediatrics recognize the benefits to both parents and children that breastfeeding provides. Exclusive breastfeeding is recommended for the first 6 months of life with continued breastfeeding up to 2 years of age or beyond along with complimentary foods. Breastfeeding difficulties often lead to weaning earlier than planned.

### **USLCA Position Statement**

USLCA recognizes that infants experiencing complex feeding challenges could benefit from a collaborative approach among disciplines such as speech-language pathologists, lactation care providers, body workers, dentists, dietitians, and ENT's.

A team of breastfeeding champions across disciplines participating in a collaborative triage and assessment model could:

- Recognize that anatomy may not be the only contributing factor in infants with feeding disorders.
- Identify additional factors related to the infant's feeding difficulties.
- Provide additional parental support and education during times of increased stress
- Identify red flags and pull in appropriate providers
- Increase exclusive breastfeeding rates among infants with feeding disorders.

USLCA believes a multidisciplinary approach to address breastfeeding/chestfeeding challenges would significantly help family's reach their feeding goals.