Table 3

A mother presents for care after late-pregnancy loss, neonatal loss, infant/child loss, or adoption relinquishment loss



The mother is currently lactating or the transition to lactogenesis II is impending



Assess the mother's view of the loss, her knowledge base and health history. Counsel her about the lactation process she may soon expereince and her options regarding lactation suppression or continuation.

The mother wishes to suppress lactation

•The mother should be given anticipatory guidance and evidence-based care strategies in regards to lactation suppression and engorgement care. The entire healthcare team should have the same information available to them so that conflicting advice is not given. The mother should be encouraged to seek lactation care as needed.

The mother wishes to continue lactation

•The mother should be given support ideas regarding milk expression, milk storage and milk donation options. The mother should be encouraged to continue to seek lactation care as needed.



The grieving mother should be provided with support and resources that reiterate her care plan ideas and direct her to emotional support resources as well. The lactation consultant should follow-up with the family adequately after discharge.

Cole, Melissa. Lactation after Perinatal, Neonatal, or Infant Loss, Clinical Lactation, 3-3, 94-100.