

Moms who want to pump at work won some long-deserved rights when Congress passed the health-care reform bill in March. Most employers must now provide to their working-mom employees, including hourly workers:

A private lactation

space—not a bathroom—where others can't intrude.
Reasonable break time
when the employee needs
to pump milk.

State laws already in place that are more protective will continue to apply, says

Brian Pedrow, a partner at law firm Ballard Spahr in Philadelphia. But before the new legislation has teeth, the U.S. Department of Labor must determine how to enforce the regulations. In the meantime, working moms can help spread the word about their new rights. "Many employers aren't aware of the law's details, so education is needed," adds Pedrow. To find out more about the new provisions and to print out a copy for your employer, go to nationalpartnership.org/ breastfeeding.

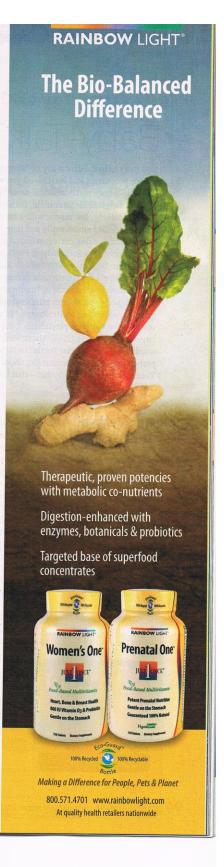
Folic Acid Update

It's common knowledge, based on several studies, that taking 400 mcg of folic acid daily before conception and during early pregnancy greatly reduces the risk for several birth defects. But be careful what meds you take along with it. Certain medications taken during the first trimester can block folic acid absorption and more than double the risk for defects such as spina bifida and malformations of the brain, according to recent research from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. The offending drugs include catrimoxazole, a sulfa drug; trimethoprim, used to prevent and treat urinary tract infections; and anti-epileptics like phenobarbital. If you're taking any medications during pregnancy, consult your doctor to alleviate concerns about drug-folate interaction.

> NURSE IN STYLE

Returning to work? Consider clothing designer HadleyStilwell's collection made specifically for breastfeeding moms. The easy-on-off charcoal Signature Swing Jacket (at right, \$62) pairs beautifully with the Signature Dress (\$87), which features hidden zippers for easy access, so your skin is unexposed while pumping or nursing. It's corporate, yet oh-so-convenient (hadleystilwell.com).





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