Nursing & Lactation Spaces in Aviation
Accessibility and Other Considerations

August 4, 2020
Heather Karch, AIA LEED BD+C
Aviation Facilities & Infrastructure Architecture Manager
Agenda:

• Federal Regulations and Requirements
• Accessibility Considerations
• Lactation vs Nursing Rooms
• Customer Service
• Opportunities for Future

Image courtesy of www.kamdora.com
Friendly Airports for Mothers (FAM) Act

All large and medium-sized airports are now required to provide a clean, private, non-bathroom space in each terminal for the expression of breast milk. The space must be accessible to persons with disabilities, available in each terminal building after the security checkpoint, and include a place to sit, a table or other flat surface, and an electrical outlet. The bill also makes grants available to airports to help them make these critical renovations. The Act also requires airports to provide a baby changing table in one men's and one women's restroom in each passenger terminal building.

http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/fam-act
Accessibility Considerations

- Locations
- Clear space
- Counter height
- Receptacle locations
- Hardware

- Refer to current code for requirements:
  - 2018 IBC
  - ICC 117.1-2009
  - 2010 ADAAG
Locations at SEA

- Concourse A: Gate A9
- Concourse B: Gate B1
- Children’s Play Area
- Concourse C: Gate C10E/F
- Concourse D:
  - Gate D23
  - Gate D8
  - Satellite Train Station
- South Satellite Mezzanine Level
- North Satellite Mezzanine Level
Nursing vs Lactation?

The term "Nursing" and "Lactation" are sometimes used interchangeably when referring to these spaces but there are differences.

Nursing refers to breastfeeding and/or bottle feeding a baby and/or young child. Technically a person can nurse their child in a public space.

However the act of pumping breast milk needs more privacy and requires a lockable room.

The FAM Act requires Airports to provide a Lactation Room in each Terminal.
Who can use the space?

Nursing Rooms can be used by a single person or multiple users, regardless of their gender. It is a space parents can access to get away from the busy and sometimes noisy airport to feed their child.

Lactation Rooms, though preferred as a single user space, can also be designed for multiple users.

Another option is to combine the two spaces to create a Suite or Lounge with private lactation rooms and an open nursing space so multiple users can utilize the space at the same time.

Each facility will determine their own use policy. Regardless of the type of space it should be accessible by all.
Lactation Room

Minimum requirements:

• Shielded from view and free from intrusion
• Lockable door
• Place to sit
• Table or other flat surface
• Electrical outlet
• Non-bathroom space
Lactation Pods

When space (or construction budget) is limited, modular lactation pods, such as a Mamava, have many benefits:

• Quickly installed
• Flexible and easy to move
• ADA Accessible available
• Custom graphics available
• Lockable option available
• Ceiling vents and exhaust fan
• Occupancy-activated lighting
• Shelf, mirror, and coat hook

Image courtesy of Neil Sherk & Frank Irlanda
Nursing Suite

Additional Amenities:
• Decorative/Dimmable Lighting
• Sink and bottle cleaning
• Calming Artwork/Decor
• Radio/Calming Music
• Comfortable seating
• Baby Changing Table
• Occupancy indicators

Image courtesy of Johanna Ordaz
Nursing Suite with Lactation Spaces*

* Note the individual spaces are not lockable but there is an option lock the main door at entrance, spaces can be retrofit with locking doors in future to provide more privacy.
Customer Service

- Increased expectations from passengers and airport staff
- Upgraded finishes
- Types of amenities provided
- Adjacency to other amenities
- Map of other locations
- Cleanliness
Future Opportunities

• Use of technology for frequent cleaning via occupancy sensors

• Provide additional supplies for users

• Emergency Communication

• Appliances such as microwaves and mini fridges
Questions?
Thank You!

Operated by the Port of Seattle

FlySEA.org