

# Daily Patriot

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## Breastfeeding practices for infant in first six months stressed

ISLAMABAD: Health experts have stressed that breastfeeding practices for infant and young child in first six months after birth are must to control neonatal and infant mortality rate upto 22% in the country.

Addressing the consultative meeting here on Monday on 'Breastfeeding: a key element in achieving Millennium Development Goals, organized by The network for consumer protection, the medical professionals said that breastfeeding practices can improve health of mother and child.

The meeting discussed in detail the prospects of a strategy to promote breastfeeding practices among community, implementation of breastfeeding



ordinance and its monitoring and linkages of breastfeeding with MDGs.

The health experts were of view that feeding practices can help save mothers from many diseases including breast cancer while it is also important for health of new born baby.

Director General Health Maj.

Gen (R) Shahida Malik said that unfortunately the rate of breastfeeding practices in developing countries is very low as compared to developed countries which may cause problems for mother and new born children.

She said a protection of Breastfeeding and Child

Nutrition Ordinance 2002 has been promulgated in the country which needs proper implementation.

She said several steps have been taken at all level to create awareness among mothers regarding effects of breastfeeding practices on child particularly in early six months after birth.

She said all health professionals have to play their important role in this regard to educate the masses. She said breastfeeding is the right of every new born child.

She said the ministry of Health has started several project to improve the health of mother and child as she added the rate of maternal and neonatal mortality in the country has to be controlled.—APP