



Pasteurized Donor Human Milk in Well Baby Units

Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee is a nonprofit, HMBANA-accredited milk bank dedicated to providing safe, pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM) to infants across our state and region. While PDHM is well established in NICUs, hospitals are increasingly integrating donor milk into their Well Baby Nursery protocols to support breastfeeding success, improve infant outcomes and enhance the family experience.

✓ Improves Breastfeeding Success

- Serves as a bridge when a mother's own milk is delayed, limited or temporarily unavailable.
- Protects and supports milk supply by allowing exclusive human milk feeding plans to continue.

✓ Supports Baby-Friendly Initiatives

- Strengthens hospital compliance with Baby-Friendly, AAP, and WHO breastfeeding recommendations.
- Reinforces best practices around exclusive human milk feeding.

✓ Enhances Patient & Family Satisfaction

- Reduces stress for mothers recovering from delivery, complications or separation.
- Demonstrates the hospital's commitment to maternal-infant health and evidence-based care.

✓ Contributes to Improved Infant Health Outcomes

- Supports reductions in readmissions for dehydration, jaundice and feeding complications.
- Provides protective immune factors found in human milk.

Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee

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Hospital-Led Eligibility Criteria

Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee does not determine which infants receive pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM). Each hospital maintains full clinical authority to establish its own eligibility criteria based on the needs of its patient population, existing protocols and evidence-based best practices.

This approach ensures that donor milk use aligns with your hospital's standards of care, supports clinical judgment and integrates seamlessly into existing workflows.



Common Eligibility Criteria Used in Well Baby Nurseries

Many hospitals choose to offer donor human milk to infants experiencing one or more of the following:

- Late-preterm status (typically 34–36 weeks gestation)
- Weight loss greater than 10%
- Maternal delayed lactogenesis or insufficient milk supply in the first days
- Hypoglycemia requiring supplementation
- Temporary separation from the mother, such as postpartum complications

Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee provides safe, pasteurized donor human milk, while your hospital determines how and when it is used. This partnership allows you to tailor care to your families while ensuring access to the highest-quality human milk available.

Freezer Requirements for Storage

- The freezer must be dedicated to only human milk storage and located in a secure location.
- Freezer temperature must be monitored daily and held at no higher than -18 °C.
- Pasteurized donor human milk and raw milk are ideally stored in separate freezers; however, if this is not possible, they are at least physically segregated and clearly labeled within the freezer. Pasteurized donor human milk must ALWAYS be stored above any raw milk (breast milk that has not been pasteurized). Raw milk must be stored on lower shelves of freezer below PDHM.

If your hospital is not yet using donor human milk from Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee, now is an ideal time to begin. Contact Executive Director, Amy Painter at 615-933-8877 or Amy.Painter@milkbanktn.org