



DONOR MILK DISTRIBUTION POLICY

Background

Mid-Atlantic Mothers' Milk Bank (MAMMB) is a community-based not for profit organization committed to bettering the lives and health outcomes of our region's residents. In our ideal world, every baby would receive donated human milk if mother's own milk is not available. The reality is that there is a limited supply of this precious resource and that there are significant costs associated with the screening and processing necessary for the medically fragile infants that we serve.

MAMMB relies on the generosity of volunteer milk donors and therefore cannot guarantee availability of milk. We developed this Distribution Policy in accordance with the guidelines of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) to ensure that infants with the greatest medical need for donor milk are given priority.

Definitions, as defined by the Medical Advisory Board of MAMMB

Medical Need: A diagnosis or circumstance in which donor milk may provide a therapeutic benefit. Such conditions include, but are not limited to, malabsorption disorders, prematurity, short gut syndrome, congenital heart disease, renal disease, post-surgical nutrition, immunological deficiencies, failure to thrive, allergies, and formula intolerance. Most cases of documented medical need are covered by insurance. Those that are not are eligible for an income based discount through MAMMB's sliding scale program.

Discretionary Outpatient Use: A situation in which an infant does not have a documented medical indication for human donor milk and has limited or no access to maternal milk. Such situations include adoption, maternal death, insufficient supply, maternal mastectomy, temporary discontinuation of breastfeeding due to medication, and bridge milk use. Discretionary use is unlikely to be covered by insurance and is not eligible for MAMMB's Sliding Scale Discount Program.

Formula Intolerance: Suboptimal growth and/or symptoms after documented trials of different formulas. MAMMB defines formula intolerance as continued issues after at least 3 documented formula trials including a hypoallergenic or amino acid based preparation.

Bridge Milk: Limited short-term donor milk fed to a healthy baby in the first four weeks of life as a mother works to increase her own milk supply.

Classification of Need

If a prescription for donor milk does not clearly fall under one of the above definitions, the Medical Advisory Board of MAMMB will review the information provided and determine whether the request is a medical need or discretionary use.

Order Fulfillments

MAMMB aims to provide facilities and ill outpatients in PA, WV, NJ, and MD with a reliable, ample supply of pasteurized donor milk. Orders are filled using the following guidelines:

Milk distribution is prioritized as follows: 1) Level 3 and Level 4 Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) and Cardiac Intensive Care Units; 2) Lower Level NICUs; 3) Outpatients with Medical Needs; 4) Mother Baby Units; 5) Discretionary Use and Bridge Milk.

Orders placed for Discretionary Use or Bridge Milk will only be filled if MAMMB has, in stock, a volume of milk sufficient to cover one month of the typical needs of all the hospitals it serves. This volume is calculated as an average from orders in the previous quarter.

Review of Use

MAMMB's Medical Advisory Board reviews all outpatient prescriptions quarterly.

Questions or concerns? Please contact us at info@midatlanticmilkbank.org or call us at 412-281-4400