

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 medically documented condition in which donor human milk offers therapeutic benefit. Examples include malabsorption disorders, short gut syndrome, congenital heart disease, renal disease, post-surgical nutritional needs, immunologic deficiencies, failure to thrive (when clinically indicated), allergies, and formula intolerance. Infants who have reached 35 weeks corrected gestational age are not eligible for donor milk on the basis of prematurity alone. Most medically indicated cases are typically covered by insurance. Families without coverage may qualify for an income-based discount through MAMMB's sliding-scale program.

Discretionary Outpatient Use: An infant who lacks a documented medical indication for donor human milk but has limited or no access to maternal milk. Examples include adoption, maternal death, insufficient maternal supply, maternal mastectomy and temporary interruption of breastfeeding due to medication. Donor milk for discretionary or non-medically indicated use is not provided at this time.

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 and an amino acid based preparation. Each formula needs to be trialed for approximately two weeks.

Bridge Milk: Limited short-term donor milk fed to a healthy baby in the first two 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 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

All outpatient prescriptions are reviewed quarterly by MAMMB's Medical Advisory Board. Prescriptions are valid for three months, after which they expire and must be renewed if continued use is indicated.

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