

Mothers' Milk Bank At a Glance



Pasteurized Donor Human Milk (PDHM) is donated human milk from parents with more than enough for their babies. PDHM is the **first choice** for infant feedings when a parent's own milk is unavailable or insufficient.

At Mothers' Milk Bank (MMB), we know that PDHM saves lives. In our cutting-edge ISO 7 Cleanroom Certified facility, we carefully collect, pasteurize, and test milk before it is sent to neonatal intensive care units throughout the country. As a member of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA), we adhere to strict guidelines created in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and American Academy of Pediatrics. These guidelines ensure milk is safe for all infants.

How It Works

QUALIFYING DONORS

Human milk donors complete a comprehensive screening process to ensure they meet the guidelines established by HMBANA and the MMB Medical Advisory Council. Learn more about this process at milkbankcolorado.org/donors.

PROCESSING



Approved milk donations are pooled to ensure consistent nutrient content. Milk is then dispensed into bottles.

The milk is gently pasteurized to eliminate viruses and bacteria while preserving its unique immune properties.

After pasteurization, the milk is tested to assure safety. It is then cooled, labeled, and frozen for storage.

After the milk is processed we ship it out to hospitals, NICUs, and families across the country.

TESTING

Before it is shipped, all processed milk is tested to assure its safety. The milk is cultured in a third-party microbiological laboratory and must be free of bacterial growth. We also analyze the milk using a human milk nutrient analyzer, which reports information on fat, protein, and lactose content. Calorie content is then calculated based on these results. Finally, the milk is tested for drugs of abuse. Milk must pass all tests before dispensation.

WHERE DOES THE MILK GO?

The majority of PDHM dispensed by MMB goes to premature and medically fragile infants in NICUs. This milk is often provided as part of the cost of care. When milk is ordered, a tissue processing fee and shipping costs are assessed to the facility. Donor milk is also available for outpatient families and can be purchased after they fill out a medical release form for their baby. Our Medical Relief Fund is available for families with a significant need for PDHM.