



KNOW YOUR MILK BANK

D O N O R P R A C T I C E S

Donation Practices

Donation practices are an important consideration when choosing a supplier of donor milk. Using a particular milk bank or company is support and endorsement of the practices of that organization.

Exploitive and unethical policies, such as excessive ounce requirements or predatory recruitment practices can compromise donor milk safety and greatly impact the donor, even undermining optimal nutrition for the donor's own baby. When ethical, compassionate policies are in place, milk donation can be a very positive and rewarding experience for donors and their families.

Oklahoma Mothers' Milk Bank Commitment to Donors

Our milk bank is equally committed to our donor families as we are to our recipient families. If a mother who has delivered at your facility pursues donation, be assured that she and her milk will be cared for with respect and gratitude.

All donor screeners are IBCLCs or trained in lactation support who are always available to answer questions. The screening process begins with a brief interview by phone or in person and frequent contact is maintained throughout the period of donation.

This allows screeners to develop a relationship with the donor which provides significant benefits for both the donor and the milk bank.

Here are some simple questions to ask a potential supplier of human milk along with our answers:

Are donors paid? If so, how much?

All donors are unpaid volunteers. The milk bank pays for all screening and shipping costs. Storage bags are provided upon request. All HMBANA accredited milk banks are strictly prohibited from providing compensation to donors due to ethical and safety considerations.

May I see your recruitment materials?

Absolutely! We are happy to provide you with samples of all of our materials. Social media is a common way that donors find out about our milk bank. Check us out on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Be sure to visit our website too!

Are mothers required to sign a contract?

Never.

How many ounces are mothers required to provide? What happens if this minimum amount is not met?

100 ounces over the entire course of donation which is usually over several months. This minimum amount helps offset the costs of blood screening. There is no pressure for donors and they are told in writing and verbally that the needs of their baby and family always come before donation. The minimum is waived for bereaved mothers.

How do you know that a donor's own baby is receiving all of the milk needed?

Our milk bank has policies in place to help ensure that the donor's baby is receiving all of the milk that he or she needs. The donor and the healthcare provider of the donor's baby are asked specific questions regarding the donor's supply and her baby's growth. A donor baby's human milk needs are always the first priority even if the baby has weaned from the breast. Due to the reliance on self-reporting from mother to both the milk bank and healthcare providers, Oklahoma Mothers' Milk Bank avoids any incentivization of milk donation.

What about bereaved mothers?

OMMB has special programs to support families who have experienced a perinatal loss including information on our website, providing hospitals with our lactation information booklet "Milk While Mourning" and providing bereaved donors with a butterfly that matches their baby's on our memorial tree and a special locket with some of her milk preserved inside. The names, birthdates of the babies of our bereaved donors and butterfly of mom's choosing are displayed on our memorial tree mural at the milk bank.

May I have a donor reference?

Absolutely! Our donors love to share their experiences online too. Check us out on Facebook or Instagram.



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