



Donor Milk to Go Program



Pasteurized Donor Human Milk for Families at Discharge

Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee is proud to partner with hospitals across the state and region to ensure that infants have continued access to safe, pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM) after leaving the hospital. Our Donor Milk to Go Program offers a simple, reliable way for families to obtain up to **10 bottles per baby** of screened, pasteurized donor human milk directly through their hospital's designated distribution site at the time of discharge. It is designed to:

- Support breastfeeding goals
- Bridge temporary gaps in a mother's own milk supply
- Provide safe nutrition for premature or medically fragile infants
- Ensure continuity of care from hospital to home

Clinical Criteria & Family Eligibility

Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee does not determine which infants qualify for Donor Milk to Go. Eligibility is solely at the discretion of the hospital's clinical team, following their established guidelines, protocols and medical judgment.

Hospitals commonly consider Donor Milk to Go when infants demonstrate:

- Late-preterm status
- Weight loss >10%
- Hypoglycemia or borderline glucose levels
- Maternal delayed lactogenesis or low milk supply
- Expected short-term supplementation needs
- Separation from mother
- Prior use of donor milk in the nursery or NICU
- Poor latch or ineffective breastfeeding during the early postpartum period

These examples are not prescriptive or required; they simply reflect frequent use cases. Your hospital determines all criteria, approvals, and discharge recommendations.

Processing Fees

Families are assessed a processing fee for each bottle at the time of discharge. The hospital does not incur any fees for offering the Donor Milk to Go program. The processing fee (paid by the family) covers the cost of donor screening, nutritional analysis, pasteurization, microbiological testing, and storage. The processing fee is \$14.95 per 100mL bottle.

Thanks to the generosity of our financial donors, we are able to waive or discount the processing fees to qualifying households based on a sliding scale. Please see page 3 for more information.

Getting Started

- The clinical team determines eligibility criteria for their Donor Milk to Go program.
- Designate a freezer and area where pasteurized donor human milk intended for the Donor Milk to Go program will be stored. Please see freezer requirements below.
- Request a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee specifically for the Donor Milk to Go Program.
- Receive QR code from Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee. Families will scan the QR code to submit their information, baby's information, method of payment to Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee, provide their consent and input the identifying information on the bottles that are dispensed to the family for traceability.

Freezer and Storage Requirements

Storage Practices:

- The freezer must be dedicated to only human milk storage and located in a secure location OR the freezer must be locked.
- Pasteurized donor human milk and raw milk (breast milk that has not been pasteurized) are ideally stored in separate freezers; however, if this is not possible, the milk must be segregated and clearly labeled within the freezer. Pasteurized donor human milk must ALWAYS be stored above any raw milk. Raw milk must be stored on lower shelves of the freezer below PDHM.
- PDHM should be stored in the freezer in a manner that bottles with the shortest expiration dates are dispensed first.

Temperature Requirements:

- Freezer temperature is held at no higher than -18 °C.
- Temperature of the freezer must be monitored daily.

Transport Packaging

- Milk must remain frozen until given to the family.
- Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee will provide insulated bags for safe transport.
- Families will receive safe handling and storage instructions emailed to them at the time they submit their form via the QR code.

Donor Milk to Go: Step by Step Guide

1.

Provide eligible families with information regarding cost and the Compassionate Care Fund prior to discharge.

2.

Families seeking financial assistance must email their information and proof of income to info@milkbanktn.org.

See below for more information.

3.

At discharge, a unit team member should pull the number of bottles* the family is requesting from the freezer.
Up to 10 bottles per baby.

4.

Provide family with the QR code to submit the required information and method of payment.

Families will need the Batch Number(s) on Bottles and Expiration Date(s)

5.

Obtain proof of submission and dispense frozen PDHM in cooler bags provided by MMBTN.

6.

Record distribution on log for hospital's records. Log template is provided by MMBTN.



Compassionate Care Program

Thanks to the generosity of our financial donors, we are able to waive or discount the processing fees to qualifying households based on a sliding scale. Please visit milkbanktn.org/donormilktogo to view the sliding scale or scan the QR code. Please note, requests will be fulfilled based on availability of financial donations.

If a family qualifies for assistance, they are to email us at info@milkbanktn.org with the following information:

- Parent or Guardian's Name
- Baby's Name and Date of Birth
- The name of the hospital that baby is being discharged from
- Proof of eligibility for assistance. Acceptable proof includes one of the following: copy of W2 from most recent tax year, proof of state or federal assistance, most recent paystub for heads of household.
- At this time, requests for Compassionate Care assistance will only be reviewed Monday-Friday.
- Once household income is verified by our staff, the family will receive a discount code via email based on the level of support they receive determined by our sliding scale.

DONOR MILK TO GO FAQ

Q: How many bottles can a baby obtain at discharge?

A: Families may receive up to 10 bottles per baby at the time of discharge.

Q: What are the costs to the hospital or clinic for implementing and sustaining this program?

A: There are no direct program fees for hospitals to participate in Donor Milk to Go. Mothers' Milk Bank of Tennessee (MMBTN) provides the hospital with pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM) bottles at no charge for this program. The hospital is responsible for:

- Purchasing and maintaining a freezer to store PDHM used for Donor Milk to Go
- Allocating minimal staff time to manage the program's workflow

Q: Who can start a Donor Milk to Go program?

A: A hospital or clinic that also serves as a Milk Drop Depot OR provides PDHM to in-patients from MMBTN.

Q: How will I receive the pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM) to dispense?

A: MMBTN will ship an initial set amount of PDHM bottles to establish your inventory. Ongoing inventory will be replenished as needed and supplied via FedEx or a designated courier. MMBTN staff will determine ideal inventory levels and assist with ongoing supply management.

Q: Do I have to have a dedicated freezer to store Donor Milk to Go inventory?

A: The freezer does not have to be dedicated solely to Donor Milk to Go. However:

- It must be dedicated to human milk storage only (no food or unrelated materials).
- It must be stored in a secure location or locked if security cannot otherwise be guaranteed.
- Ideally, PDHM and raw expressed breast milk are stored in separate freezers. If this is not possible, the two must be clearly separated and labeled within the same freezer. PDHM must always be stored above any raw milk. Raw milk should be stored on lower shelves to prevent contamination risks.

Q: What if a family wants more than 10 bottles or has an ongoing need for PDHM?

A: Families requiring more than the discharge limit or needing PDHM beyond the immediate postpartum period should submit an outpatient request at milkbanktn.org/outpatient. MMBTN staff will review the request and coordinate fulfillment directly with the family.

Q: If our hospital receives PDHM for inpatients, can we use that inventory for Donor Milk To Go if we run low?

A: No. Hospitals are strictly prohibited from reallocating or "swapping" PDHM between inpatient use and the Donor Milk To Go program without written consent from MMBTN. This safeguard is essential to maintain proper traceability, documentation and safety standards for every bottle dispensed.