

North Carolina Women's Hospital

Donor Human Milk Fact Sheet: Treatment of Hypoglycemia

Your baby will be getting blood sugar tests for several feedings after birth. If your baby's blood sugar is low, we will give all of your milk that is available. We encourage and support all mothers in breastfeeding and providing their own milk for their babies.

Sometimes, we also need to give extra milk to get a baby's blood sugar up. We can provide the option of using donor human milk if your baby needs extra milk. Because it is more like your milk than any formula we have available, we want to give you information about donor milk. **If you would like your baby to receive donor milk (in the event that extra milk is needed), please tell your nurse.**

Donor human milk is:

- Collected from mothers who are breastfeeding or pumping milk for their own baby and have extra milk to give
- From mothers who are screened with the same blood tests as blood donors
- Processed at a milk bank where it is pasteurized (heated to a very high temperature), screened for bacteria, and refrozen

Why donor human milk?

- We know that mothers' milk provides the best nutrition and health benefits for new babies
- When your milk is not available, we want to use the next best food for your baby.
- Like your own milk, donor milk is easy for your baby to digest, and does not increase your baby's risk of infections and allergies

How long will donor milk be used?

Usually we only need to use extra milk for a few feedings. Your baby needing extra milk for low blood sugar **does not mean** that you do not have enough milk to feed your baby. Once your baby's blood sugar is stable, you will be continuing to breastfeed without giving extra milk.