# DONATE BREAST MILK + SHARE THE GIFT OF LIFE



If you are interested in becoming a breast milk donor or need more information, please contact us.



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# HONG KONG BREAST MILK BANK





### Donate Breast Milk, Share the Gift of Life

Breast milk is the best form of nourishment for babies and comes with multiple health benefits. It contains all the components for optimal nutrition, protects babies from infections, reduces feeding intolerance, and fosters better long-term growth and development. For preterm and sick babies, breast milk is easy to digest and absorb. It provides antibodies and other bioactive factors that help the most vulnerable babies fight infections. Evidence shows that for preterm and sick babies, breast milk is lifesaving as it reduces the risk of serious complications, notably necrotising enterocolitis-a life-threatening intestinal disease among preterm babies.

Mother's own milk is usually the best, however, when it is insufficient or unsuitable for medical reasons, pasteurised donor breast milk (PDBM) is the next best option.



# Hong Kong Breast Milk Bank

The Hong Kong Breast Milk Bank (HKBMB) is located at the Hong Kong Children's Hospital. It is a service established under the Hospital Authority with the aim of providing safe and high-quality PDBM for the preterm and sick babies in the neonatal intensive care units (NICUs). HKBMB strictly adheres to protocols adapted from international guidelines for milk banking including the UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA).

Same as blood donors, breast milk donors must undergo health screening and blood tests to ensure eligibility to donate. Donor breast milk is processed in the milk bank with a robust system for screening, microbiological testing, pasteurisation, and nutritional analysis, all under precise temperature control. PDBM meeting the standards will be distributed to NICUs, where it is dispensed according to paediatrician's prescription to babies in need.















#### Can I Become a Donor?

You can become a donor if you are healthy, your baby is under one year old and you:



Do not smoke and do not consume alcohol regularly



Do not use illegal drugs and other prohibited substances

Do not consume more than 3 cups of regular coffee (200 mg of caffeine) per day



Are not at increased risk of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease



Have not received blood transfusion in the last 6 months



Have Vitamin B12 supplement if you are a vegetarian / vegan



Have not had any body piercing, tattoos, cosmetic tattoos, or acupuncture done (without using a single-use needle) in the last 6 months



Are not taking medications (including herbal remedies) which are known to be unsafe during breastfeeding



Have not been tested positive for Hepatitis B and C, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Human T-Lymphotropic Virus (HLTV) types 1 or 2, or Syphilis

## **Process of Milk Donation**

Complete health screening questionnaire at an interview conducted

by a nurse







Blood tests every 3 months to screen for communicable diseases

Pick-up and cold chain transport to HKBMB by a qualified courier service



#### Points to note

- Milk donation is voluntary with no ODO Donor information is kept confidential. remuneration.
- will be provided.
- Support by lactation consultant All breast milk donated to the HKBMB will not be returned.