

Donor breast milk banks overview

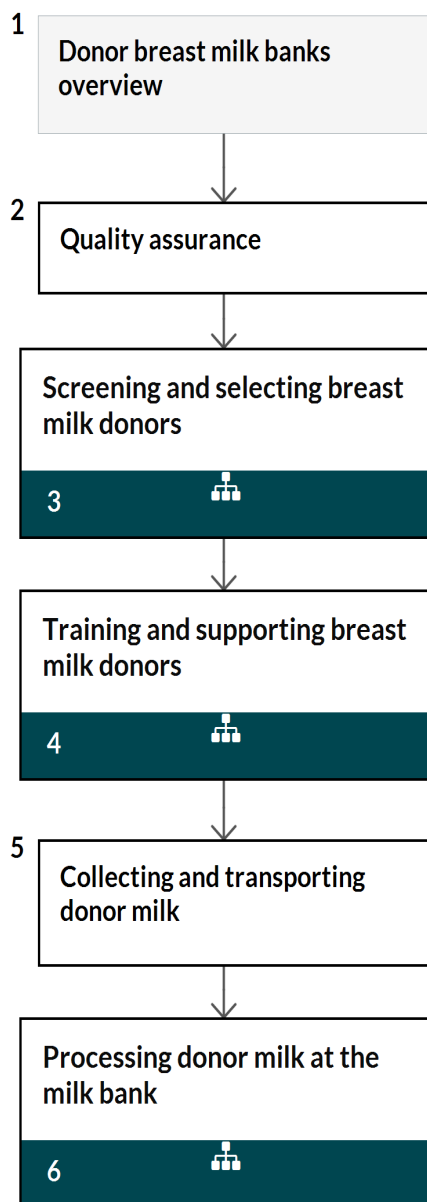
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/donor-breast-milk-banks>

NICE Pathway last updated: 17 July 2018

This document contains a single flowchart and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.



1 Donor breast milk banks overview

No additional information

2 Quality assurance

Use Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles in all quality assurance processes.

Implement a quality control system that is followed by all milk bank staff. This should cover:

- collecting, testing, processing, storing and transporting milk
- personnel, required documentation, premises and equipment
- batch recall, external and internal auditing, non-conformance to processes and self-inspection
- continuous quality improvement.

Review the quality control system regularly.

All donor milk administered in the NHS should be from milk banks that can demonstrate adherence to the NICE guidance on the operation of donor milk banks.

Equipment used in handling and processing donor milk

Clean and store all donor milk containers and equipment according to local protocols based on HACCP principles.

Validate, calibrate and maintain all equipment; keep records of this.

Use equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Regularly inspect all equipment; follow the manufacturer's instructions.

If equipment could affect temperature or contamination levels, ensure that it has sensors and alarms so that constant conditions can be maintained.

Training of milk bank staff

Conduct ongoing training for all milk bank staff that is relevant to their job; record this training.

Cover good practice and ensure each staff member:

- is competent in performing their job
- understands the technical processes relevant to their job
- understands how the milk bank is organised and how its health and safety and quality systems work
- understands the regulatory, legal and ethical aspects of their work
- is trained in HACCP principles, food hygiene and pasteurisation.

Provide ongoing support so that practices reflect HACCP principles.

3 Screening and selecting breast milk donors

[See Donor breast milk banks / Screening and selecting breast milk donors](#)

4 Training and supporting breast milk donors

[See Donor breast milk banks / Training and supporting breast milk donors](#)

5 Collecting and transporting donor milk

Collecting donor milk

Collect from either the donor's home, or from donor milk depots that monitor freezers and maintain standards for quality control. Ensure that similar processes are in place in any location where the milk is stored.

Where possible use an agreed transport provider (ideally a medical courier) or a member of staff from the milk bank.

Donors may sometimes deliver their own milk to the milk bank or depot, in which case they should also follow the milk bank's requirements for transport.

Transporting donor milk to the milk bank

Define critical transport conditions, including temperature and time limit, to ensure that the donor milk remains frozen.

Define in writing the milk bank's procedures for transporting and storing donor milk. Ensure that these procedures maintain the quality of the milk and allow accurate identification of samples.

Transport in secure, tamper-evident containers and packaging.

Keep records of inventory and distribution.

If a contracted third party is used for transport, ensure that a documented agreement is in place to maintain the conditions needed.

Use consistent monitoring processes, including recording the journey time.

6 Processing donor milk at the milk bank

[See Donor breast milk banks / Processing donor milk at the milk bank](#)

Glossary

Donor milk depots

any place where donor milk can be stored before transfer to the milk bank. The depot can be run by the milk bank (for example, when donors are from wide geographic areas) or by volunteers

Sources

[Donor milk banks: service operation](#) (2010) NICE guideline CG93

Your responsibility

Guidelines

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should [assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations](#) wherever possible.

Technology appraisals

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.