

Why Donor Milk?

Breast milk is nature's perfect nourishment for newborns. When mum's milk is unavailable or in short supply, the gift of **donor breast milk** can be a valuable top-up or alternative. It's especially beneficial for **premature or low birth weight babies**, as mum may encounter delays in establishing their own supply.



Ensuring the **safety** of donated breast milk is paramount for vulnerable infants, ensuring they receive the **nutritional benefits** without any risks. Donors undergo thorough **screening** and **testing** to confirm the absence of health conditions that could be transmitted through their milk.

How It Helps

Breast milk contains protective antibodies such as **immunoglobulins** which play a vital role in protecting vulnerable babies from infections. Breast milk can also be easier to **digest**.

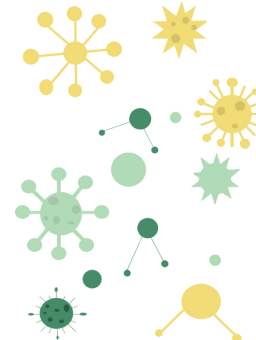
Premature babies are at higher risk of complications such as **necrotising enterocolitis (NEC)**, a condition that causes inflammation of the bowel, which can require emergency surgery and, in extreme cases, can be life-threatening.



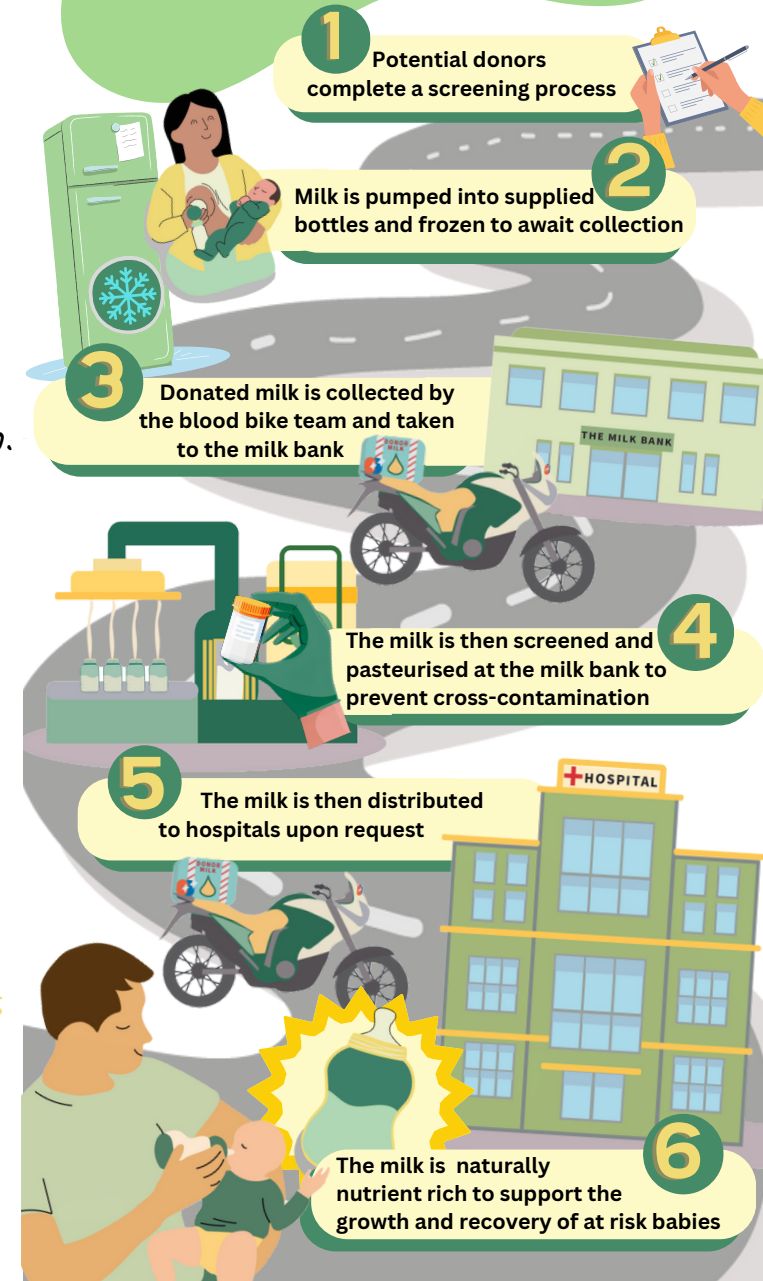
Expressed donor milk is **frozen** to maintain its **nutritional value** and prevent bacterial growth. Before and after pasteurisation microbial testing ensures safety. Donations are then pasteurised (gently heated) to remove any remaining harmful bacteria.

Does pasteurisation kill all the good stuff?

Absolutely not!
Donor milk **maintains** good bacteria, enzymes and antibodies in quantities that **benefit** babies.



THE MILK DONATION JOURNEY




DONOR MILK is associated with a

46%

RISK REDUCTION of necrotising enterocolitis compared to formula milk




Facts And Figures

1.  There are a total of 17 donor milk banks across the UK


Each year around 1500 women donate their milk in the UK



3.  EVERY MONTH 130 litres of breast milk is donated to The Milk Bank at Chester

90 neo-natal units across the UK considered human donor milk to be supportive of positive breastfeeding outcomes



5.  Research suggests that babies who receive donor breast milk have a reduced length of hospital stay

Testimonials

There are many reasons why someone may choose to donate their breast milk or receive donor milk. Every parent's journey is unique, which is why we want to share some of their amazing stories.



“ You soon realise how much milk is really required and really respect the effort from both volunteers, milk bank staff, blood bikers and most of all that there is a story behind each and every donation.
Kayleigh - Neonatal Nurse

“ I was poorly following my son's birth. I couldn't meet him until the following day and I couldn't express for a number of days. It was so reassuring to know he was receiving donor milk to ease the pressure off myself until I was well enough to provide for him.
Laura- Donor Milk Recipient



“ I read a post by a mum who donated her breast milk when her baby passed away. It really struck me. The time felt right. I phoned the NorthWest Milk Bank the next day and started pumping. My final donation was collected last month - making 92 bottles!
What a privilege!
Emily - Milk Donor



If you would like more information on how to donate, please use this QR which will take you to The Milk Bank Chester's website.

WELCOME TO THE MILK SHARE

Raising awareness of donor breast milk to promote informed choice

Did you know that breast milk is donated, processed and distributed across the UK to offer a safe alternative for vulnerable newborns?

