

**in conjunction with Nebraska DPH Epidemiology Unit*

Regarding use of donated human milk in hospitals, Summary of issue and recommendations

The benefit of human milk to infants is clear, and hospitals should work to implement the use of donated human milk (DHM) as safely as possible.

When mothers are unable to provide milk to infants, an increasingly used option is to provide human milk from a donated human milk bank (DHMB).

DHM obtained from unscreened donors or via the internet is of great concern and should not be used.

DHM should be provided to an infant with the following in place:

- A physician order
- Informed consent from a parent or legal guardian, which should include
 - Statement regarding risk of transmission of infectious agents
 - Statement regarding the risk of presence chemical contaminants (e.g., drugs)
 - Statement regarding the lack of FDA regulation of DHMB's
<http://www.fda.gov/ScienceResearch/SpecialTopics/PediatricTherapeuticsResearch/ucm235203.htm>

DHM should only be obtained from a DHMB that complies with recommendations from the HMBANA (Human Milk Banking Association of North America).

DHM should preferably be obtained from a DHMB in a state regulates the operation of DHMB's (New York, Maryland, and California).

The following safeguards must be in place at the facility to ensure

- DHM is handled and stored appropriately
- Identity of the infant/recipient is linked to a specific lot of DHM and these records are stored/safeguarded in order to provide tracking and look-back analysis of potential exposures or outbreaks. If this record keeping is outsourced to the DHMB, the entity should comply with HIPAA guidelines; the infant's parents should be made aware of this transfer of PHI (personal health information); and the DHMB must be responsive to requests for information.
- Adequate safeguards are in place to ensure that DHM is thawed, dispensed, and administered correctly.
- Repeated freeze and thaw is discouraged.

References:

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AdvisoryCommittees/CommitteesMeetingMaterials/PediatricAdvisoryCommittee/UCM235619.pdf>