

Birth Center

Breast Milk Depot

What is a Milk Depot?

This is a program for nursing moms to donate their extra milk. Hudson Hospital Birth Center now offers a Breast Milk Depot that makes it possible for women with an ample supply of breast milk to share that with an infant in need. For various reasons, a mother may not always be able to produce breast milk for her baby, or she may not yet be producing milk for her newborn. Donor milk is often used as a bridge to help nourish babies until a birth mother's milk comes in. Donated breast milk is second only to the mother's own breast milk and a wonderful way for babies to receive the very best nutrition.

How does the program work?

Mothers who wish to donate breast milk may contact the Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa at **877-891-5347**. Donating moms are screened and labs tested before their milk is accepted into the program. This reputable organization has managed the processing of donor milk for more than two decades. The mother's physician is contacted with the results, and a meeting is set for the moms to drop off donor milk with the Birth Center. The milk is labeled and stored in a freezer — and finally shipped to the Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa for processing and pasteurizing. The milk is available to order for hospitals across the Midwest.

Process to become a donor:

1. Contact the Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa: svetha-swaminathan@uiowa.edu
2. Complete the verbal screening and the written screening forms provided.
3. The Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa will send you a kit, including information about completing blood testing as required prior to donating (the lab tests are free of charge to the mother, as the costs are paid by the Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa).
4. If approved by the screening, you and your physician will be contacted with the results. A meeting is set up with the Hudson Hospital Birth Center to explain the donating process. Learn more about Hudson Hospital Birth Center services at healthpartners.com/care/hospitals/hudson
5. Contact the Hudson Hospital Birth Center Lactation Consultants at **715-531-6572** to set up an appointment to drop off your stored milk. It will be labeled and shipped to the Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa for safe processing and pasteurizing.

For questions call **877-891-5347** or to learn more, visit uichildrens.org/mothers-milk-bank Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa Department of Food and Nutrition Services

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