



CLINICAL GUIDELINE	
Pasteurised Donor Human Milk (PDHM)	
Scope (Staff):	Nursing and Medical Staff
Scope (Area):	NICU KEMH, NICU PCH, NETS WA

This document should be read in conjunction with this [DISCLAIMER](#)

Please note that this document covers the use of PDHM at both KEMH and Ward 3B PCH.

Click [here](#) for **Ward 3B** specific procedures for PDHM.

Perron Rotary Express Milk (PREM) Bank

Pasteurised Donor Human Milk (PDHM) is available as a feeding choice for infants **≤ 32+6 weeks** post-conception age, and/or **≤ 1500 grams** whose mothers are unable to provide sufficient breast milk for adequate nutrition. Other infants with a risk of feed intolerance will be considered for PDHM on an individual basis by Consultant/Senior Registrar (SR).

On occasions where there is very high demand for PDHM, usage will be restricted to neonates <32 weeks gestation and/or ≤1500 grams and any other neonate prioritised by SR/Consultant to protect the most at risk infants.

PDHM is usually fed up until a corrected gestation of 34 weeks unless demand for PDHM is high; then recipients of PDHM will be reviewed by PREM Bank/Consultants on an individual basis and supply restricted to prioritise the highest risk infants to retain supply.

All PDHM is provided from the [Perron Rotary Express Milk \(PREM\) Bank](#), and all donors are thoroughly screened for viruses. All milk is pasteurised and microbiologically tested before being released from the milk bank.

Human breast milk provides optimal nutrition and reduces the risks of illness and disease. PDHM retains most of its bioactive properties and is the next best option where the mothers own milk is not available or there is insufficient volume.

Guidelines for the Use of PDHM at KEMH

Medical Order for PDHM

A medical order for PDHM is required. This order should be written in the baby's notes prior to obtaining PDHM consent. Mother's own milk should always be used up prior to providing PDHM

Obtaining consent from parents

Parental consent (MR416.00) must be obtained for the use of Pasteurised Donor Human Milk.

Monday to Friday: PREM Bank Lactation Consultant

After hours: NICU Lactation Consultant OR Consultant/Senior Registrar.

Refer parents to: [Providing Breast Milk](#) information.

Processes for the Use of PDHM at KEMH

Mother's own milk should always be used up prior to providing PDHM.

The required volume of PDHM for the following 24 hour period will be delivered to the Milk Room as required. All PDHM will be clearly labelled "Pasteurised Donor Human Milk" and will be pre-labelled by the PREM Bank with the infants UMRN and the date dispensed.

PDHM is not to be shared between twins/triplets as donor milk may be from different donors.

As per frozen EBM, PDHM can be used for the 24-hour period following thawing. Milk will be provided in single-use sterile bottles.

NOTE: When **documenting feeds** in 'Neonatal Observation and Nursing Assessment ICU' chart (MR489) please document a donor milk feed by writing 'PDHM' rather than 'EBM'.

Any **unopened** bottles of PDHM should be returned to the Milk Room to be recorded and disposed of. Any partially used bottles can be emptied and reprocessed by the PCA's.

NOTE: If insufficient PDHM is supplied, or more milk is required due to spillage or increased feed volumes, an emergency supply will be available in the Milk Room Freezer. Any nurse utilising this milk should record the UPID (clearly marked on PDHM label) in the Record sheet attached to the freezer. The date used and recipients UMRN should also be recorded. Any PDHM used from the milk room freezer should be labelled appropriately with the infants UMRN (patient sticker if available) and the date thawed.

Preparation for Transfer or Discharge (Other than KEMH Special Care Nursery and Ward 3B PCH)

NOTE: PDHM is **not** to be sent with patients to peripheral hospitals.

The PREM Bank operates under legal advice that we only provide donor milk to patients under the direct care of the Medical Director of Neonatology. This is a requirement of the Therapeutic Goods Act (Therapeutic Goods (Excluded Goods) Order No. 1 of 2011). As such we cannot provide PDHM to hospitals other than KEMH Special Care Nursery and Ward 3B at PCH.

If PDHM has been provided for a patient on the day of transfer to another unit, staff should discard any unused portion of PDHM. **Under no circumstances** should PDHM be sent with a patient. If insufficient maternal EBM is available the receiving hospital should be advised to decide on an appropriate alternative.

Please contact the Manager of the PREM Bank, Dr Aaron Raman if there are any concerns regarding the use of PDHM.

Ward 3B PCH Specific Processes

Medical Order for PDHM.

A medical order for PDHM is required. This order should be written in the baby's notes prior to obtaining PDHM consent. Mother's own milk should always be used up prior to providing PDHM.

Obtaining consent from parents

Consent may be obtained by Consultants/Senior Registrars or the Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC). Both parent(s) and medical professional must sign the 'Consent for PDHM' (MR416; Consent for PDHM) form in the appropriate sections. Email the signed consent form to Dr Aaron Raman or Ms Tracey Sedgwick of PREM Bank.

iSOFT Clinical Manager: Please update details containing feeding requirements and consented date for PDHM. If expressed breast milk (EBM) is available, please update accordingly. Please see example from iCM below.

The screenshot shows a digital form with two sections. The first section is labeled 'Diet:' and contains a dropdown menu with 'Milk Room' selected. The second section is labeled 'Diet Notes:' and contains a text area with the following text: 'EBM L1/PDHM L1 8mls/hrly CMF' and 'PDHM consent 18/9'.

Guidelines for the Use of PDHM at PCH

- Mother's own milk should always be used up prior to providing PDHM.
- The required volume of PDHM for the following 24-hour period will be delivered to the Special Feeds Unit (SFU) by 12pm as required. All PDHM will be clearly labelled "Pasteurised Donor Human Milk" and will be pre-labelled by the PREM Bank with the infants UMRN, dispensed date and expiration date.
- PDHM is not to be shared between twins/triplets as donor milk may be from different donors.
- Similarly to frozen EBM, PDHM can be used for the 24-hour period following thawing. Milk will be provided in single-use sterile bottles and should be discarded as per expiry date label.
- **NOTE:** When **documenting feeds** in 'Neonatal Observation and Nursing Assessment ICU' chart (MR489) please document a donor milk feed by writing 'PDHM' rather than 'EBM'.
- Any **unopened** bottles of PDHM should be returned to the SFU to be recorded and disposed of. Unopened **frozen** bottles of PDHM from the **weekend** should remain in the freezer (notify PREM Bank staff on Monday). Any partially used bottles should be emptied and discarded.

Calculate required PDHM volume

The required volume of PDHM can be calculated by the difference of available expressed breast milk (EBM) from Total Volume of feed required. EBM volume can be determined by checking the 3B refrigerator or the Special Feeds Unit for frozen EBM.

For example, if Total Volume required is 216ml and 100ml of EBM is available; 116ml of PDHM is required to meet the feeding requirements.

216ml (Total volume) – 100ml (EBM) = 116ml PDHM difference required.

PDHM is available in aliquots of 200ml, 100ml and 50ml. Hence, 150mL PDHM is required from the PREM Bank to meet the infant's needs.

Ordering PDHM from the PREM Bank

Midwife on duty is responsible to order PDHM. Check for updated EBM volume (if available) before ordering PDHM as MOM should be prioritised over PDHM.

Daily PDHM is to be ordered by 8:00am for each 24-hour period. The weekend feeds (forecasted volumes) will be dispensed with Friday's order.

Weekdays: PDHM will be delivered to SFU by 12pm.

Weekends: PDHM will be delivered on Friday and stored in the freezer located at 3B.

Contact Information

PREM Bank business hours are 7:00am to 3:00pm, Monday to Friday.

Contact:




- Phone PREM Bank; Ext 81207.
- via Vocera; Dr Aaron Raman or Ms Tracey Sedgwick.
- Email; aaron.raman@health.wa.gov.au or tracey.sedgwick@health.wa.gov.au

Related CAHS internal policies, procedures and guidelines

[Enteral Feeding: Initiation and Progression](#)

[Perron Rotary Express Milk \(PREM\) Bank](#)

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

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Collaboration

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