

Medical Policy: Human Milk

Effective Date: 1/01/2025

Date Developed: 11/27/24

Reviewed/ No Updates:

Human Milk

Policy:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and healthcare professionals strongly recommend the benefits of breastfeeding. AB3059 (entitled Human Milk) mandates the coverage of donor human milk. The health plan is required to implement the provisions of this bill starting January 1, 2025. Effective January 1, 2025, VCHCP covers the provision of medically necessary pasteurized donor human milk obtained from a licensed tissue bank pursuant to Chapter 4.1 (commencing with Section 1635), Health and Safety Code §§ 1367.624, 1635.1 and 1648.

Criteria:

Banked pasteurized donor human milk is medically necessary if:

1. Infant is premature (less than 32 weeks gestation) or has a documented birthweight of less than 1,500 grams.
2. Infant has gastrointestinal anomaly, metabolic/digestive disorder, or recovery from intestinal surgery when digestive needs require additional support.
3. Infant is diagnosed with failure to thrive (not appropriately gaining weight or growing).
4. Infant has formula intolerance, with documented feeding difficulty or weight loss.
5. Infant has congenital or acquired condition places the infant at risk for necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) and/or infection
6. Pre- or post-organ transplant

NOTE: Whenever possible and feasible, formula or mother's own milk (alone or in combination) should be used instead of donor milk.

Provisions:

-A VCHCP authorized provider has to prescribe banked donor milk, as well as actively manage the infant's care. This includes but not limited to state-licensed nutritionists, registered dietitians, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, physician assistants who are under appropriate physician supervision.

-Each prescription is on a case-by-case basis and good for up to what the doctor prescribes for the baby.

-Prescriptions have to show the amount and frequency of feedings. Families can only get up to 35 ounces/day, per infant. Additional ounces will be based on infant's needs based on medical necessity.

-Coverage may be for up to 12 months of age, as long as it's medically necessary and appropriate. Coverage may be extended based on infant's needs based on medical necessity.

-Coverage determinations on banked donor milk for very low birthweight infants is on a case-by-case basis.

-Pasteurized donor human milk has to be obtained from a licensed tissue bank

Procedure Codes (HCPCS):

- HCPCS code T2101 (human breast milk processing, storage and distribution) – This is a Medi-Cal code but there is nothing else available
- HCPCS codes A4287 (disposable collection and storage bag for breast milk, any size, any type, each)

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References:

Guaranteeing Medi-Cal Coverage of Pasteurized Donor Human Milk. (2022, December 5). The California Breastfeeding Coalition’s (CBC). <https://californiabreastfeeding.org/guaranteeing-medi-cal-coverage-of-pasteurized-donor-human-milk/>

Human Milk, Weber, Assembly Bill 3059, An act to amend Sections 1635.1 and 1648 of, and to add Section 1367.624 to, the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 10123.864 to the Insurance Code, relating to human milk. (2024). <https://www.calhealthplans.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/AB-3059-Text.pdf>

Use of Donor Human Milk. (2018, March 22). U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA). <https://www.fda.gov/science-research/pediatrics/use-donor-human-milk>

A. Attachments: None

B. History:

Authors: Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling MD
 Committee Review: UM: February 20, 2025; QAC: February 25, 2025
 Created on 11/24/24
 Date Reviewed/No Updates:

Revision Date	Content Revised (Y/N)	Contributors	Review/ Revision Notes