

# Providing Donor Breast Milk for Premature Infants

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# Providing Donor Breast Milk for Premature Infants

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## BACKGROUND & SIGNIFICANCE

- Currently, donor breast milk is not available for infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Lehigh Valley Health Network.
- Infants in the NICU are fed formula if they do not have access to, or adequate amounts of, maternal breast milk.

## EVIDENCE

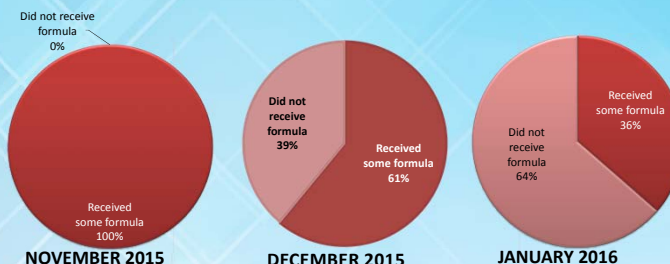
- The American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends donor human milk instead of formula for preterm infants when mother's own milk is unavailable.
- One out of every 33 infants that are fed formula will develop Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC).
- The rates of NEC are markedly lower when infants are fed human milk as opposed to formula.
- Donor milk is associated with a significantly lower incidence of NEC.

## PURPOSE

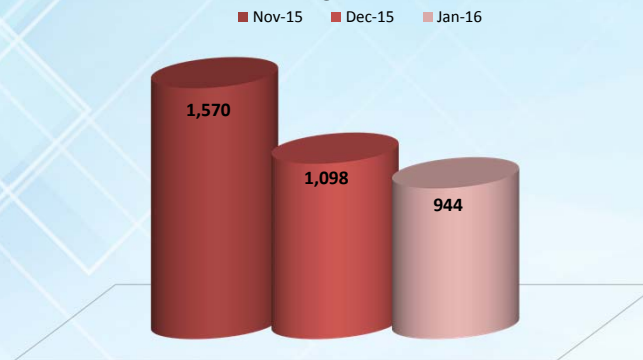
- P.I.C.O.
  - Will feeding donor breast milk, when sufficient maternal milk is not available, instead of formula to preterm infants weighing less than 1,500 grams at birth decrease the incidence of NEC or infection?

## CURRENT DATA

Three month data collection on infants in the NICU who weighed less than 1,500 grams at birth, and evaluation of formula use in the first two weeks of life.



The amount of formula in milliliters fed to infants less than 1,500 grams in the NICU.



Amount of formula fed per month in the NICU (mL)

*The purpose of this data collection was to obtain an estimate of how much donor breast milk would need to be purchased per month in milliliters.*

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Presentation of evidence and data to NICU Operations Improvement Committee
- Contact with Three Rivers Mothers' Milk Bank in Pittsburgh, PA:
  - Cost per ounce of DBM = \$4
  - Average mL per month of formula used at LVHN = 1,204 mL
  - Estimated total cost per month to purchase DBM = \$4,816
- Create a Donor milk workgroup composed of members of the NICU OI and NICU Lactation committees.

## NEXT STEPS

- Develop a policy and procedure for bringing donor breast milk into the NICU at LVHN
- Create a consent form for the infant's parents to sign
- Bring donor breast milk into the NICU at LVHN

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