

# Providing Donor Breast Milk for Premature Infants.

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## Published In/Presented At

Carr, E., Kline, K., & Lanzarone, M. (2017, March 21 & 24). *Providing Donor Breast Milk for Premature Infants*. Poster presented at: Vizient/AACN Nurse Residency Program™ annual meeting.

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# Providing Donor Breast Milk for Premature Infants

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## BACKGROUND & SIGNIFICANCE

- Currently, donor breast milk (DBM) 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.

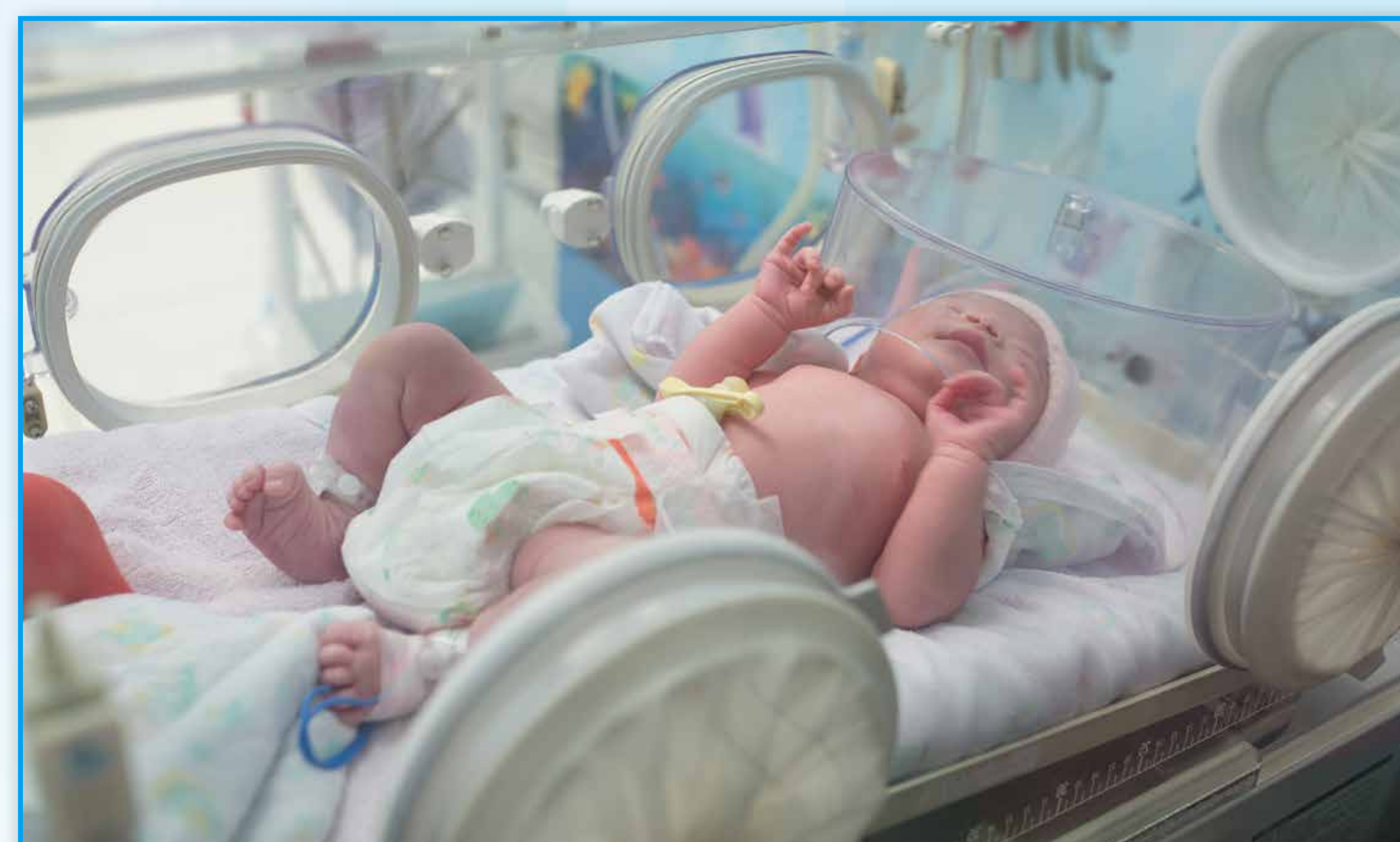
## EVIDENCE

- 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 breast milk is associated with a significantly lower incidence of NEC.

## PURPOSE

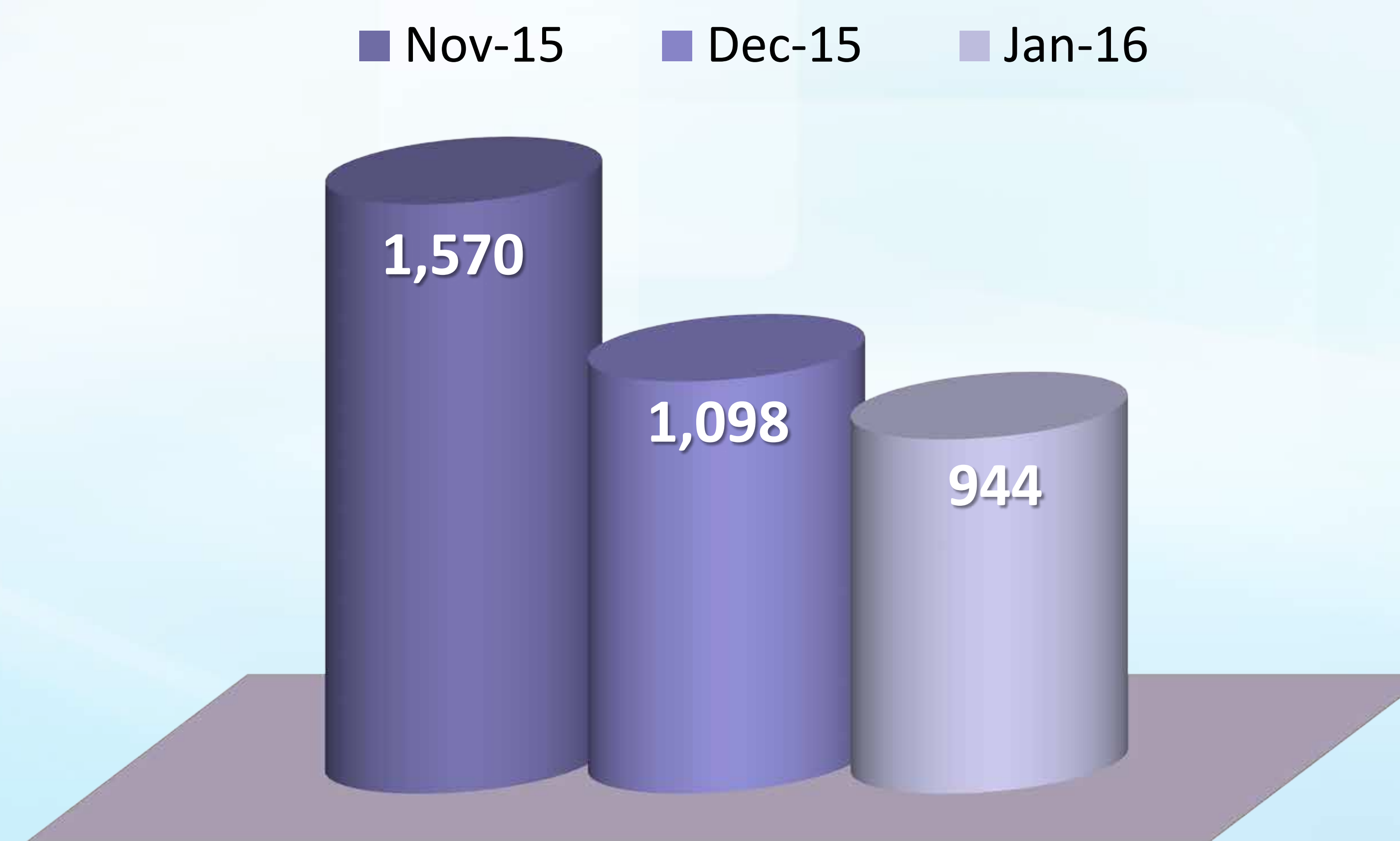
- Collate and present evidence that shows donor breast milk is associated with a significantly lower risk of NEC.
- Investigate the amount of formula use in NICU infants weighing <1,500 grams at birth during their first two weeks of life.
- Estimate the amount of donor breast milk (mL) that would need to be purchased per month to support a donor milk initiative at Lehigh Valley Health Network.

## DATA



Donor Breast Milk

The amount of formula (mL) fed to infants weighing less than 1,500 grams in the NICU



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

## ACTIONS

- Presentation of evidence and data to NICU Operations Improvement Committee (OIC)
- 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 OIC and NICU Lactation committees

## NEXT STEPS

- In the defined population, development of a donor breast milk program at Lehigh Valley Health Network.

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