

Medicaid Coverage of Outpatient Donor Breastmilk

Outpatient Donor Breastmilk

- Pursuant to 17b-277c of the Connecticut General Statutes, DSS is developing outpatient coverage for medically necessary pasteurized donor breastmilk for infants provided:
 - A licensed practitioner issues an order establishing medical necessity as established by clinical criteria (birth weight and health conditions that make donor breast milk medically necessary); and
 - The infant is medically or physically unable to receive maternal breast milk or participate in breastfeeding due to maternal milk being unsuitable; or
 - The infant's mother is unable to produce sufficient quantities of breast milk to satisfy nutritional requirements.
- Statute required DSS to adopt of amend regulations to implement

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- Regulation is undergoing legislative review process
- DSS has been working with three milk banks to understand the current process and develop a streamlined approach
 - Mother's Milk Bank Northeast – Massachusetts
 - The New York Milk Bank – New York
 - Mid-Atlantic Mother's Milk Bank – Pennsylvania
- Main concerns of milk banks:
 - Primary focus of all milk banks - support inpatient/NICU babies
 - Donor breast milk has limited supply that fluctuates
 - Outpatient must focus on bridging to transition to a permanent feeding plan – supplied for limited time period
 - Ensuring outpatient donor breastmilk is approved for medically fragile babies who cannot tolerate transition to formula
 - Education of practitioners to understand that the ability to supply donor milk is not guaranteed and must focus on the medically fragile infants
 - Lack of experience with billing and very limited resources

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- Next Steps:
 - Regulation will continue to move through the legislative review process
 - DSS working with administrative service organization (with input from the milk banks) to develop a streamline prior authorization process
 - DSS continuing discussions with milk banks to address concerns and questions
 - Enrollment process
 - Workflow
 - Billing
 - *Tentative* effective date: July 1, 2023