

BLOOD TESTS FOR BREAST MILK DONORS

Before they can accept your donated breast milk, milk banks need to ask a number of questions about your general health and lifestyle. You will also be asked to have a blood test.

Some diseases and infections can be transmitted through breast milk. Although they are eliminated during the pasteurisation process, this blood test will ensure the absence of any of these infections pre-pasteurisation.

This screening process is similar to that of blood donors and the tests are additional to the ones already undergone before giving birth to your baby. You will also be required to undergo further blood tests if you donate to the milk bank over a long period of time. These additional tests will be required at 3 monthly intervals and three months after you cease donating to the milk bank.

The Mothers Milk Bank will give you the information you require to arrange these with your doctor.

Your blood will be tested for:

HIV 1 and 2

Human Immunodeficiency Virus 1 and 2, the virus responsible for AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). AIDS is the names given to a collection of diseases that develop because the body's immune system breaks down. It is possible to carry HIV for many years without becoming ill.

Hepatitis B and C

Viruses that infect the liver cells and can cause inflammation of the liver.

HTLV I and II

Human T-cell Leukaemia virus types I and II are most common in Southern Japan, the Caribbean, parts of Africa, South America and South Eastern USA. Many people who carry these viruses have no symptoms although they will be infectious.

Syphilis

A sexually transmitted bacterial infection.

These infections can be passed on in a number of ways:

- Through unprotected sexual intercourse
- Through the sharing needles
- Via blood transfusions
- Via breast milk and,
- Via tattoos and body piercing if non-sterile equipment is used.

Once negative test results have been received, a Milk Bank consultant will contact you regarding the donation and collection of your milk. If you have a positive result for any of these conditions, you will be referred your doctor and any specialists for additional help and counseling. If you have any queries or concerns regarding these infections and possible transmission, please contact your Milk Bank consultant immediately.

The Mothers Milk Bank is required by law to ensure the confidentiality of our donor mothers. All personal information and test results obtained by the Mothers Milk Bank are held in strict confidence.

Please contact the Mothers Milk Bank for further information.

**Mothers Milk Bank
GOLD COAST**

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The information in this leaflet is based on the United Kingdom Association for Milk Banking (UKAMB) guidelines, updated 2005; the Australian Tissue Banking Forum Standards, 2003; and compiled in accordance with the "Standard Operating Procedures and Protocol for Milk Banking in Australia" published by the Mothers Milk Bank (MMB), 2007.

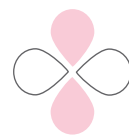
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