



Bereavement Milk Donation Scripting

Many families find that milk donation is an important part of their healing process; however, this may not be the case for all families.

If a family is not interested in milk donation, that is ok! The purpose of the human milk bereavement donation program is to offer each family a choice. Milk Bank WGL accepts bereavement donations as a service to the community and is not actively seeking research milk.

Talking point to introduce bereavement milk donation:

- **“Some moms take comfort in donating their milk after loss.”**



Provide mom with the Milk Bank WGL “Milk Donation After Loss” brochure. Allow her time to process the information. If she expresses interest in donating, please review the following:

- Bereavement donations are always accepted. There is no minimum or maximum amount required.
- There are four ways for patients to start the process. ***In all cases, Milk Bank WGL will call the donor to review additional screening questions, complete the application process, and provide support.***
 - The patient can fill out “Part 1” of the Bereavement Application while she is in the hospital. Please fax completed forms to Milk Bank WGL at 847-262-5983 or email the forms to donors@milkbankwgl.org.
****This is the fastest way for Milk Bank WGL to assign a donor number.***
 - You can help the patient to visit our website to fill out a “Donor Interest Form” at <https://www.milkbankwgl.org/donate-milk/> ****This pathway is completely digital.***
 - The patient can ask for you to share her name and number with Milk Bank WGL.
 - The patient can call Milk Bank WGL directly at 847-262-5134.
- Some patients may require additional paperwork and/or a blood draw. Some milk will be processed for use by other babies, while other milk may be used for research. This decision will be made on a case-by-case basis and is the responsibility of Milk Bank WGL staff. ***There is no need to discuss the possibility of a blood draw with the patient. If they ask, you can let them know we will review this with them during the application process.***
- Some patients may donate milk they already have stored, while others choose to begin or continue pumping for donation. Lactation support can be offered to help each patient reach her personal goal.

Share additional information about Poppy’s Dream:

- Discuss “Poppy’s Dream” memorial mural located in the Milk Bank WGL lobby.
- Stars are hand painted with the child’s name and birth date.
- Milk Bank WGL will invite each family to come hang the star(s) for their child(ren). Pictures will be emailed to all participating families, if desired.
- Every family has the option of submitting a photo of their baby to Milk Bank WGL. Photos will be circulated in a digital picture frame hanging next to the memorial.



- A memory book accompanies the memorial; each family is welcome to read through previous entries and submit an entry of their own.
- Every year, Milk Bank WGL holds an open house and candle lighting ceremony for Star families.

Information about getting milk to Milk Bank WGL:

- In order to accept donor milk, Milk Bank WGL must receive appropriate forms and assign a donor number.
We cannot accept milk without a donor number.
- If all milk is at the hospital, Milk Bank WGL will work with hospital staff directly to coordinate milk pick-up or shipment.
- If the mother is planning to continue pumping at home, Milk Bank WGL will also provide her with instructions on how to store milk and prepare it for donation. She will be able to drop off milk at a milk depot of her choice.
<https://www.milkbankwgl.org/locate-a-milk-depot/>

Bereavement Milk Donation Algorithm

