



Special Care Baby Unit
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Annual Report 2007- 2008

The Cheshire & North Wales Human Milk Bank is now in its 6th year of operation.

Statistics for the first 5 full years of operation are:

- **400 Donor Mums**
- **2,177 litres of milk donated = 5.44 litres per donor**
- **575% increase in milk distribution to other hospitals since Year 1**

In 07 – 08 Milk has been distributed to 20 hospitals from Barrow in Furness to Cardiff and from Grimsby to Bangor.

Activity

Year	Donor Mums	Volume Pasteurised	Local Use	Distribution to Hospitals
2003 - 4	62	250 litres	150 litres	41 litres
2004 - 5	68	420 litres	285 litres	75 litres
2005 - 6	75	400 litres	280 litres	60 litres
2006 - 7	94	507 litres	300 litres	105 litres
2007 - 8	101	600 litres	230 litres	270 litres

Fundraising

Fundraised money has continued to maintain our service as it has done since the establishment of the service and thanks to generous donations the Milk Bank is in a very sound financial situation. The public have demonstrated overwhelming support for this health care initiative through their fundraising activities, the donations of milk, their promotion of the service and accepting Donor Milk for the care of their babies.

Fundraising continues to replace and buy new equipment to improve efficiency and enables us to cope with ever increasing demands upon our service.

What's New?

I am happy to report the launch of our website from the 1st July 2008. Have a browse on www.chestermilkbank.org.uk

With the increased activity in all aspects of our charitably funded service this communication will save us time and enable us to regularly update information to all interested parties on a monthly basis.

Highlight of the Year

The 10th anniversary of UKAMB was celebrated by hosting an International Human Milk Bank Conference at Chester Racecourse in autumn 2007. This was a huge success with delegates attending from 20 different countries and provided an opportunity to share Milk Bank experiences with the global network, review practices and has enabled improved networking and collaborative working.

Human Milk Banking is attracting increasing interest across the globe as multidisciplinary health professionals review literature, propose research and develop milk bank services.

The Dept of Health's National Institute of Clinical Excellence (N.I.C.E.) Group are currently developing a short clinical guideline for the use of donated human breastmilk. This institute is committed to involving national organisations that represent patient or professionals in the development of clinical practice guidance. In order to participate fully an organisation must register as a stakeholder for a specific topic. For further information please use the hyperlink below. <http://www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=guidelinesprocess>

A European Network of Milk Banking was established during the Chester Conference. This forum has created an opportunity to share good practice and expertise with our E. U. colleagues in Neonatal Care and supports the WHO/DOH recommendation that all babies should be breastfed for the first 6 months of life. In Italy the provision of donor human milk is widespread and increasing and the 2nd International HMB Conference will be held in Milan on the 17th October 2008.

2009 celebrates the centenary of Human Milk Banking in Europe. Watch this space!!

United Kingdom Association for Donor Human Milk Banking (UKAMB) www.ukamb.org.uk

Cheshire and North Wales Human Milk Bank Service adheres to the standards set by UKAMB and we are able to offer practical support to health facilities regarding the provision of donor breastmilk for premature and other babies and share expertise with Milk Banks and breastmilk donors. It remains the vision of UKAMB to form a national donor breastmilk service that would supply infants throughout the UK with pasteurised breastmilk according to priority of need rather than according to the chance location of an infant's birth. A short clinical guideline to be published by N.I.C.E. will assist in this development and may have an impact on the demand for milk and the growth and development of a North of England/North West Human Milk Service as well as the rest of the country.

As a trustee of UKAMB I have been involved in the formulation of a self accreditation questionnaire following a recommendation by the DoH. (The DoH generally is tending towards deregulating rather than regulating). The 17 Human Milk Banks in the UK will be requested to take up this self accreditation. Self Accreditation will give an assurance of good practice to recipient hospitals if a minimum standard is set. Milk Banks that meet the standard will be called "UKAMB Accredited Milk Banks"

Cheshire & Mersey Neonatal Network

The two Human Milk Bank facilities in the Northwest are fully established, equipped and sufficiently experienced to be able to provide a full North West Service. The Cheshire & Mersey Neonatal Network donated non-recurring money to both facilities for additional equipment. This was approved and has enabled further development and led to increased milk availability for the region and beyond.

The Cheshire & Merseyside Human Donor Milk Provider Service Document for Neonatal Units in the Northwest and Wales is currently being updated. Revised copies will be available from the 1st August 2008. Please contact the Human Milk Banks directly if you need a copy.

Looking Ahead

We welcome any input, support, and/or recommendations from multidisciplinary health professionals in our region wishing to assist with the development of our existing successful facilities in the North West. We thank you in anticipation of your support and look forward to the future with confidence.

Lynda Coulter

Human Milk Bank Manager
Chester & North Wales Human Milk Bank