



## CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

# Breastfeeding: Expressed breast milk (EBM) identification & storage on postnatal wards

This document should be read in conjunction with this [Disclaimer](#)

### Purpose

- The appropriate identification and storing of expressed breast milk (EBM) on the postnatal wards.

### Procedure




1. All women who are expressing breast milk for their baby on the postnatal wards should be given a supply of their patient identification labels and yellow EBM stickers to place directly on their bottles, red tubes or purple syringe.
2. Storage:
  - a) If the EBM is to be given at the next feed it can remain in the mother's room (Refer parents to Storage of Breast Milk in [Pregnancy, Birth and Your Baby](#) page 95)
  - b) If the baby is in the SCN, the EBM is sent directly to the SCN or stored in the ward fridge for up to 48 hrs. (See Neonatology: [Milk Room Protocol](#): section: Handling, Storage and Transport of Expressed Breast Milk (EBM))
3. All EBM should be labelled with the mother's identification sticker and a yellow EBM sticker directly to the container prior to being placed in the fridge for storage if the baby is in SCN or EBM in excess of next feed requirements.
4. The identification sticker must be labelled with the date and time that the milk was expressed and applied directly to the syringe, red tube or bottle. Before storing the EBM in the fridge, midwifery staff should confirm with the mother that the EBM is correctly labelled and matches the woman's identification name band.
5. On removal from the fridge by midwifery staff, the label shall be checked and confirmed as correct by
  - two midwives and checked against the neonates identification band
6. EBM that is found to be incorrectly labelled or without a label must be discarded immediately and a clinical incident form completed.

7. EBM for a baby in SCN that is identified as having been expressed more than 48 hours previously must be discarded.

**Related WNHS policies, procedures and guidelines**

KEMH Clinical guidelines:

- Obstetrics & Gynaecology: Newborn Feeding: Expressing
- Infection Prevention and Management: [Incorrect Breast Milk Administered to a Baby](#)
- Neonatology (NICU): [Milk Room Protocol](#); [Breastfeeding](#)

Keywords:	Expressed breast milk,( EBM) stored EBM, labelling EBM, storing EBM, checking EBM		
Document owner:	Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Imaging Directorate		
Author / Reviewer:	CMC Breastfeeding Centre & CMC Obstetric wards		
Date first issued:	July 2009		
Reviewed dates:	March 2014; June 2018	Next review date:	June 2021
Endorsed by:	MSMSC	Date:	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
NSQHS Standards (v2) applicable:	1  Governance, 3  Preventing and Controlling Infection, 6  Communicating (incl. patient safety)		
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