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.

• Statue required DSS to adopt of amend regulations to implement
Outpatient Donor Breastmilk

• 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
Outpatient Donor Breastmilk

• 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