



BC Children's and BC Women's Redevelopment Project

An initiative of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Milk Handling Room

Planning and Building for Tomorrow's Care

72,815

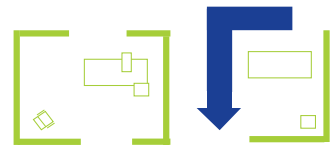
bottles of milk can be stored in the Milk Handling Room



Donor milk storage moves to Milk Handling Room from NICU



Supports Baby Friendly Initiative



Located next to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)



Provides nurses with more time to spend with patients

Overview

The Milk Handling Room will be located on the third floor of the new Teck Acute Care Centre (TACC), next to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). It will be the central location for the storage, preparation and nutritional fortification of breast milk, donor breast milk and specialized infant formula.

The Milk Handling Room is designed to support the NICU for all infant feeding needs and will work closely with the BC Women's Milk Bank to access donor milk needed for NICU babies. The Milk Handling Room will also work in collaboration with the existing formula

room which will continue to prepare specialized formula for other inpatient units in the TACC and the post-partum units of BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre.

Relocation of the breast milk storage freezers from NICU to the Milk Handling Room will reduce the noise in the unit and support an acoustically neutral environment for NICU babies who are sensitive to sound.

NICU nurses are currently responsible for preparing infant feeds. Moving to a centralized milk handling service will support nurses to spend more time providing direct patient care.

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Baby-Friendly Initiative

Breastfeeding promotes healthy babies and mothers. The Baby-Friendly Initiative, a World Health Organization and UNICEF initiative launched in 1991, supports women's informed choices about infant feeding. BC Women's has become the largest specialized hospital in Canada to receive the Baby-Friendly hospital designation, and is committed to promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding where possible, as well as supporting bottle-fed babies.

The Milk Handling Room will support BC Women's Baby-Friendly Initiative by providing specialized fortifiers for breast milk to meet the specific nutrition needs of NICU babies. Fortification of expressed breast milk will help NICU patients receive breast milk for a longer period of time and promote higher breastfeeding rates post-discharge.

How will the Milk Handling Room work?

- Mother's expressed breast milk is initially stored in a refrigerator located in the patient room.
- The milk-handling technician will pick up the mother's expressed breast milk and store it in the freezers located in the Milk Handling Room.

- When the Milk Handling Room receives a request for milk, a technician will thaw the exact amount of milk and add the specific amount and type of fortifier before portioning it into the individual syringes/ bottles for feeding.
- The technician will then deliver the prepared feeds to each patient fridge.
- Donor milk will be stored in the Milk Handling Room instead of in freezers inside the NICU. When a baby needs donor milk, the technician will thaw donor milk and prepare the feed for the patient in NICU.

Benefits

The addition of nutrition fortifiers to expressed breast milk at the bedside will migrate to the centralized Milk Handling Room. This shifts the work of preparing infant feeds from nurses to milk-handling technicians. It will also enhance the family-centred model of care in NICU, allowing more time for nursing staff to provide direct patient care and support families.

The Milk Handling Room will provide an enhanced aseptic environment and dedicated staff for the preparation of milk feedings for patients in NICU. A centralized preparation environment has been shown to improve patient safety and reduce feeding-related errors.

For More Information

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Produced by the BC Children's and BC Women's Redevelopment Communications Team - 2015