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Question	Who asked, when, where if known	Answer
1. Does this mean we can get paid for our breastmilk if we donate it?	Young woman living in Michigan.	No, that is not what the fatwa is saying or the reason we allowed it. With Ethical and Social Considerations: There is a concern about the ethical aspects of donor milk, including the possibility of exploitation or commercial transactions that could conflict with Islamic principles of fairness and charity. We would not recommend the sell of your breast milk.
2. In Islam, the consumption of pork and alcohol is strictly prohibited (haram), and does this prohibition extends to practices that involve these substances?	Somali woman in Kenya. Used to live in MN. IS currently pregnant with twins. Is concerned about milk production and wants to breastfeed.	The direct impact on breast milk quality from occasional consumption of these substances might be minimal, ensuring the health and well-being of the child is a priority, and the donor's diet should ideally align with Islamic principles but not required.
3. I grew up being told that donor breast milk causes Milk Kinship? What has changed why?	39-year-old female living in Canada	In Islamic jurisprudence, milk kinship (rada'a) establishes a relationship between the child and the breastfeeding woman. This relationship is significant because it creates certain family prohibitions and obligations, like blood relationships. If donor milk establishes this kinship, it might affect marriage prohibitions and other familial rights. Different Islamic scholars and schools of thought have varying views on how this applies to donor milk. However, it is mainly agreed on if it is used for specific reason aligns with Islamic Sharia's law goals which is to prioritize the preservation of human life.
4. What does Quran say about breastfeeding? What does it say about wet nurse?	28-year-old female living in Austin, TX	<p>There are few ayats in the Quran that addresses the concept of breastfeeding primarily but Surah Al-Baqarah (2:233). This verse provides guidance on the rights and responsibilities related to breastfeeding, and it emphasizes the importance of a mother's role in nurturing her child. The verse is as follows:</p> <p>Surah Al-Baqarah (2:233):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Mothers shall breastfeed their children for two whole years, for those who desire to complete the nursing period. The father of the child shall provide for them and clothe them according to what is acceptable. No person shall have a burden laid on them greater than they can bear. No mother shall be harmed through her child, nor a father through his child. The same duty (to provide and protect) is upon the heir. If they both decide on weaning by mutual consent and consultation, there is no blame on them. And if you decide to have a wet nurse for your children, there is no blame on you, provided you pay what you agreed upon fairly. And fear Allah and know that Allah is Knowing and Wise." <p>This verse establishes several important principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Duration of Breastfeeding: It recommends breastfeeding for two years if the mother and parents choose to complete the nursing period.



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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Parental Responsibilities: It outlines the financial responsibilities of the father to provide for the mother and child. 3. Mutual Consent: It emphasizes that decisions about weaning or using a wet nurse should be made with mutual consent and consultation. 4. Fair Compensation: If a wet nurse is hired, fair payment for her services is required. 5. Respect for Parental Roles: It highlights the need for respect and fairness in parental responsibilities and the care of the child.
5. Is donor breast milk same as wet nursing?	Living in Fargo, ND	No, Wet nursing is when a mother nurses a baby that is not hers, sometimes for payment. (Milk donors are not paid for their milk.) There is an ethical concern in Islam about selling donor breast because of possibility of exploitation or commercial transactions that could conflict with Islamic principles of fairness and charity.
6. where can Somali families go to get more information on the donor breast milk fatwa?		<p>Brighter Health MN Website: The current fatwa information is available on the Brighter Health website. Families can visit the website to access the fatwa and related details. Like you did now by emailing info@brighterhealthMN.com or info@inspirechangeclinic.org. Offer a contact option on your website for families who have specific questions or need further assistance. This could be an email address or phone number where they can reach out for personalized support.</p> <p>Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies: You are collaborating with the Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies to develop a dedicated page with comprehensive information about the donor breast milk fatwa. Once this page is complete, you will add it to your website, providing an updated and valuable resource.</p> <p>Healthcare Providers: Consult with local healthcare providers, such as pediatricians, family doctors, or lactation consultants, who may have information or be able to direct families to resources about the donor breast milk fatwa.</p>
7. Is this information in my language (Somali) so I can understand it?		Yes, we have videos featuring imams and healthcare providers in English, Somali, and Arabic. You can view the entire video in one of these three languages. Videos are on Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition and Brighter Health MN Website.
8. Are you aware of any babies that got sick after receiving donor breast milk?		We are not aware of any cases where babies have become ill from donor breast milk. However, since each child's needs are unique, we advise you to consult with your child's medical provider for personalized information and guidance on what is best for your baby.
9. Is this milk safe for all babies, and how can I trust that?		Donor breast milk is generally recommended for all breastfeeding families who choose to exclusively feed their babies human breast milk. We understand that you may have questions and concerns about its safety. We recommend visiting the Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies to learn more about the rigorous processes in place for handling and ensuring the quality of the milk after donations. For any specific health-related questions, always consult your primary doctor.



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<p>10. Do I need the fatwa if my sister or family member is donating the milk to me?</p>		<p>The current fatwa was developed with anonymous donor milk in mind. If you know the identity of your donor, such as a family member, the considerations regarding kinship will be different. It is important for you and your sister to discuss your comfort levels and any concerns with a trusted imam or religious leader to get appropriate guidance.</p>
<p>11. What if my baby is not sick—can they still benefit from donor breast milk?</p>		<p>Yes, donor breast milk can be used even if your baby is not sick. If you have a breastfeeding baby who needs more milk than you can provide or if you are unable to provide enough milk, donor breast milk can be a beneficial option. Your baby will still receive the benefits of breastfeeding without needing to be ill to use donor milk.</p> <p>However, the fatwa addresses specific circumstances related to donor milk. If you have concerns or if the information provided in the video does not fully address your situation, we recommend discussing your comfort levels and any questions with a trusted imam or religious leader to obtain appropriate guidance.</p>
<p>12. Do we have any other countries or nations with a similar idea or fatwa?</p>		<p>Yes, in 2004, the European Islamic Council issued a fatwa permitting Muslim babies to receive donor human milk. The council reviewed the processes for donation and handling of breast milk in non-Muslim countries and concluded that the benefits of donor milk outweigh concerns related to kinship. You can find this fatwa by searching for "European Islamic Council fatwa on breast milk" online.</p>
<p>13. How do non-Muslim nurses and providers explain this fatwa to patients without being offensive?</p>	<p>RN at largest consumer-governed, non-profit health care organization</p>	<p>The teams involved in developing this fatwa are working on resources to help healthcare providers introduce and promote the use of donor breast milk in Muslim communities. These resources will soon be available on the Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies website.</p> <p>In the meantime, use your expertise to explain the fatwa respectfully. Share the information you have learned and refer to the fatwa available on the Brighter Health website. If you encounter questions or situations where you are unsure of what to say, let the patient know that you will look for resource or offer them to email the team working on this to get additional support or information.</p>
<p>14. Why are Islamic scholars and doctors discussing this topic? Did something bad happen?</p>		<p>The timing of the fatwa arose from concerns among healthcare providers, lactation advocates, and community leaders about the limited accessibility of donor breast milk for families and babies in need. After conducting research and engaging in discussions, they sought the guidance of Islamic scholars to address any religious barriers and explore possible solutions.</p> <p>We were pleased to collaborate with religious scholars who were equally committed to addressing these barriers. The fatwa emerged from this collaborative and inclusive approach to community advocacy, aiming to improve access to donor breast milk and support families in need.</p>



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<p>15. What does the Quran say about non-Muslim giving milk to my baby?</p>		<p>Fatwa and Scholarly Interpretation: For specific guidance on issues not explicitly covered in the Quran, Islamic scholars provide fatwas based on their understanding of Islamic law and contemporary needs. In the case of donor breast milk, scholars may consider factors such as the safety and health benefits of the milk, as well as any relevant cultural or religious considerations.</p>
<p>16. I am currently pregnant with twins if they end up needing donor breast milk will my insurance cover it?</p>		<p>Coverage for donor breast milk under Minnesota health insurance can differ based on your specific plan and provider. For accurate information, please consult with your insurance company, your healthcare provider, and the Milk Bank.</p>
<p>17. I can donate as a Muslim</p>		<p>Yes, as a Muslim, you can donate breast milk, but there are some important considerations to keep in mind. Ensure that the donation aligns with any specific religious guidelines or fatwas regarding donor milk. Consulting with a knowledgeable imam or religious scholar can help clarify any concerns related to Islamic principles. Please follow up with the MN Milk Bank or healthcare provider.</p>
<p>18. If I am on antidepression and antianxiety medications, can I donate?</p>		<p>Please consultation with a Healthcare Provider: Speak with your healthcare provider or the milk bank for the specific medications you are taking. They can provide guidance on whether these medications are compatible with milk donation and if they pose any risk to infants. Milk banks typically have a screening process to assess the safety of donated milk. They will review your medical history and medications to ensure that the milk meets their safety standards. We highly recommend being transparent about any medications you are taking when applying to donate milk. The milk bank will evaluate whether your medications affect the quality and safety of the milk.</p>
<p>19. What if the donor has a genetic condition can it be passed to the donor's breast milk?</p>		<p>Genetic conditions are not typically passed through donor breast milk, as these conditions are inherited through genes and not through breast milk. If you have concerns about genetic conditions and donating breast milk, it's best to consult with your healthcare provider and the milk bank.</p>
<p>20. Can I pick who the donors are?</p>		<p>When donating breast milk, you generally do not have the option to choose who receives your milk. It is truly important to maintaining confidentiality for both donors and recipients is crucial. Anonymous donations help protect the privacy of all parties involved.</p>



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21. How long can should donor breast milk be stored at home?		Donor breast milk can be stored at home, but the duration depends on how it's stored. It's best to consult with your healthcare provider, MN Milk Bank, or your lactation consult.
22. Does Islam permit feeding infants human milk products stem from multiple donors?		<p>You're correct in noting that traditional Islamic guidelines for milk kinship are based on specific conditions detailed in hadith literature. These conditions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Five Consecutive Feeds: The child must receive milk from the same wet-nurse at least five times.2. Direct Suckling: The milk must be taken directly from the breast.3. Milk Kinship: Because the milk from multiple donors is mixed, it does not create the same legal or social relationships (milk kinship) as direct breastfeeding from a single wet-nurse.4. In the case of modern milk banks, where milk from multiple donors is pooled and then distributed, these traditional conditions are not met. The milk is typically not fed directly from the breast and often comes from different donors, which means the conditions for establishing milk kinship as outlined in traditional Islamic jurisprudence are not satisfied.
23. What does pasteurization change breast milk mean? Does it is not real milk?		Pasteurization is a process used to make milk safer by killing harmful bacteria and pathogens. It involves heating the milk to a specific temperature for a set period and then rapidly cooling it. pasteurization is a method to ensure safety by reducing the risk of harmful bacteria without fundamentally altering the milk's nature or its essential benefits for the infant. Pasteurized



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		breast milk remains a valuable and effective source of nutrition and immune protection.
24. What does the fatwa mean for women who have health baby, but milk has not come in yet?		The fatwa affirmed the permissibility of using donor breast milk, emphasizing that it is allowed under Islamic law to feed infants with breast milk from donors, especially in cases where the mother is unable to breastfeed or if the milk is needed for medical or health reasons.
25. How is donor breast milk safe for us?		The fatwa recognized the importance of ensuring the health and safety of donor milk through proper screening and handling procedures. This includes ensuring that the milk is free from infectious diseases and understood the process of been properly pasteurized.
26. Was health and safety considered when discussing the fatwa?		<p>Yes, health and safety were significant aspects of the fatwa on donor breast milk. Imams, muftis, and healthcare providers met several times to discuss and ensure that the fatwa addressed these concerns comprehensively. They focused on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Screening and Testing: Ensuring donor milk is tested for diseases and contaminants. 2. Pasteurization: Implementing pasteurization to make the milk safe for infants. 3. Proper Handling: Emphasizing the importance of hygienic storage and handling of milk. <p>These considerations aligned religious rulings with modern health standards to safeguard infant health.</p>
27. What are some foods that can increase mom breast milk? As a RN working in OB this is the question I get daily. How can I better educate my		<p>To effectively educate patients and the community about foods that can potentially increase breast milk production, you can focus on providing clear, practical information</p> <p>We recommend always consulting your healthcare provider or lactation consultant for personalized advice.</p>



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<p>patients and community? I heard of the Motherhood circle is it just for mom or can health care providers attend?</p>		<p>Community Engagement: Please reply to the email and we can invite you to join us to a class in the near future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Motherhood Circle: This group meets once a month on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Healthcare providers are welcome to attend to gain insights, network, and enhance their support for breastfeeding mothers. <p>By using these methods, you can help provide valuable information and support to new mothers while staying connected with community resources.</p>
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