

## **Information for Parents - Using a Home Blenderized Feed (HBF) in Hospital**

### **Background:**

At our hospitals, we respect the central role of a family in a child's life. You are a part of your child's health team, and together we will work together to make sure that your child has safe and nutritious feeds during their hospital stay.

When your child is in hospital, you may want to continue feeding him or her your home blenderized feed. Depending on the medical situation of your child, using a home blenderized feed in hospital may or may not be safe. If it is safe for your child to have their home blenderized feed, you may be asked to prepare the feed at home and bring it to the hospital because the hospital's kitchen is unable to make home blenderized feeds. If you are unable to prepare it, the hospital will offer you alternatives for feeding your child.

### **What you can expect:**

Before using a home blenderized feed in hospital, the medical team must review with you whether or not it is medically appropriate to continue with this type of feed. There are many factors that must be assessed.

Before using a home blenderized feed in hospital, the medical team will review:

- Medical appropriateness of using a home blenderized formula - Is the formula safe for your child during this hospital admission?
  - Sometimes medical problems may mean that a home blenderized feeds cannot be used safely for your child.
  - Your child's medical team will review the medical situation, and discuss the specific medical problem and the safety of a home blenderized feed with you.
  
- Nutritional needs of your child compared to the nutritional content of the feed - will your child meet their nutritional requirements and expected growth using this feed?
  - You will need to provide a sample recipe for analysis
  - The dietitian will analyze the nutritional composition of the feed and compare it to your child's needs.
  - The dietitian will review with you the nutritional appropriateness of the feed for use in the current admission.
  - Note: To prepare for planned or unplanned hospital admissions families are encourage to have a copy of their recipe and if possible a nutritional analysis of the feed

- Alternative and complementary products used in the feed – what alternative and complementary products are in the feed and are there are complications that may occur if using this feed?
  - You will need to provide a detailed list of products that are added to the feed. The medical team will review alternative and complementary products in the feed.
  - Some products may be safe, and others may interact with drugs that your child is receiving in hospital. The medical team will discuss the safety of products with you.
  
- How your child will be fed
  - Hospital pumps cannot be used to provide a home blenderized feed
  - Bolus feeds are recommended or you may use your own enteral feeding pump

If your home blenderized feed is safe for use, the medical team will review with you what you need to do in hospital to feed your child a home blenderized feed. A consent form will be provided for you to review and sign.

You will be asked to prepare the home blenderized feed and bring it to the hospital for your child. This is because the hospital's kitchen is unable to make home blenderized feeds. If you are unable to prepare it, the hospital will offer you a commercial formula.

If you have any questions, please ask your child's health care providers. We are committed to partnering with you in the care of your child to make sure that your child has safe and nutritious feeds during their hospital stay.