

Safer Feeds, Stronger Teams:

National Trends You Can't Ignore

Part 1: Collection, Receiving, and Storage

In our recent webinar, "Safer Feeds, Stronger Teams," our clinical experts, Jakayla Maher, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC, and Carrie Petras, RD CSPCC, LD, detailed national trends from over 50 hospitals regarding where high-performing units are succeeding and where gaps persist.

While many units have robust protocols for administration, our data shows that significant vulnerabilities often exist upstream, specifically in Collection, Receiving, and Storage. If errors occur at these stages, they create a cascade of risk that is difficult to undo downstream.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM WEBINAR PART 1:

The "First Touchpoint" Vulnerability:

The first safety touchpoint is the foundational moment of safety that begins at the initial receipt of milk. When units lack a standardized, scanned verification process at drop-off or label printing, "wrong patient" errors can occur before the milk ever reaches the storage. Units without a standardized, scanned verification process at the point of drop-off or label printing are introducing "wrong patient" errors before the milk even reaches the lab.

Storage & Inventory Reality Checks:

Manual storage and inventory processes often create unnecessary workload and increase the risk of missed temperature checks, product waste, and inventory inaccuracies. These gaps can also raise parental concern when milk status isn't consistently documented or visible. High-performing units are addressing these challenges by adopting automated temperature monitoring and parent-facing inventory tools which are reducing waste, improving reliability, and strengthening trust.

The Formula "Blind Spot":

While donor milk usually involves more defined traceability steps, formula and additives rely on manual logs or no traceability of lot numbers. This creates a "two-tiered" safety system in which formula lot numbers are not tied to the patient, making recall readiness a slow, manual investigation rather than an instant digital search.

Emerging Trends:

Discussion on how hospitals are navigating evolving practices such as antenatal colostrum collection (pumping before delivery) and the growing movement toward scanning in Pediatric and Postpartum units.

IMMEDIATE STEPS FOR 3 ACTIONS IN 30 DAYS:

The webinar concludes with three practical, immediate steps you can take to improve safety, regardless of your current technology stack, including standardizing your pump label distribution workflow.

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