

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Cord Blood**

### **What is cord blood?**

Cord blood is the blood left over in the umbilical cord and placenta once a baby is born. Cord blood is normally thrown out after birth.

### **Why is cord blood important?**

This blood is found to be rich source of stem cells and is currently being used as an alternative to bone marrow in treating a number of life threatening diseases.

### **Are these stem cells controversial?**

Stem cells from cord blood are not the same as embryonic stem cells. Cord blood cells come from the afterbirth from a delivery of a baby.

### **Should I donate to a public bank or store privately?**

This is a personal decision for you and your family to make. Your options are to store, donate, or discard your cord blood. The facts provided here may help you make an informed decision.

### **How much does it cost?**

It is free to donate your cord blood to the Texas Cord Blood Bank (TCBB).

### **How can I donate?**

If you are delivering at one of our participating hospitals, all you need to do is notify your nurse of your wish to donate when you are admitted. All of our kits and paperwork are kept on site for your convenience; no advance preparation is necessary. For your convenience, some of these forms are also available on-line.

### **What if my hospital is not listed?**

You can still donate by contacting us at 800-292-5534 ext 1865 or by email at [cordblood@bloodntissue.org](mailto:cordblood@bloodntissue.org) for information on how to get a collection kit.

### **How do I know if I am eligible to donate?**

Most healthy moms are able to donate their cord blood! Common reasons that someone cannot donate are listed on our downloadable [Screening Tool for Cord Blood Donors](#). You may also contact us at 800-292-5534 ext 1865 or by email at [cordblood@bloodntissue.org](mailto:cordblood@bloodntissue.org) for more information.

### **How is cord blood collected?**

After your baby is delivered, the placenta is usually thrown away. Before the placenta is discarded, the cord blood can be collected from the portion of attached umbilical cord.

### **What happens to my cord blood after I donate?**

The cord blood is transported to TCBB for further testing and processing before it is stored in frozen liquid nitrogen. Units not meeting banking criteria may be considered for use in quality controls or research.

### **What if I ever need my cord blood?**

The cord blood you donated may still be available. You need to know, many of the diseases currently treated with cord blood may already be present in your donated cord blood. This means that the baby who donated cord blood may not benefit from his/her own cord blood cells. However, a sibling may benefit, if they are a match.

### **Who has access to my cord blood?**

Every unit that meets banking criteria will be listed on the national registry and accessible worldwide for patients in need.