

Facts about cord blood banking

It is your choice to donate or bank your baby's cord blood. Just like every other decision about the birth of your baby, you should ask for good information and a chance to have your questions answered. This brochure is intended to give you some information to make that decision. Feel free to discuss your options with your healthcare provider.



What is cord blood?

Cord blood is the blood that is in the cord and placenta after a baby is born.

How is it used?

Cord blood contains special cells, called umbilical cord stem cells, that may help treat numerous kinds of serious diseases like sickle cell and blood cancers. These cells can also be used for research testing to determine if the cells can help with problems like brain damage, diabetes, and heart disease.

How is it collected?

After a baby is born and the cord is cut, a specially trained person or health care provider collects the blood from the cord and placenta. The birth of the baby is not interrupted or changed in any way. The process does not harm the baby or mother in any way.

Are there any risks?

There are no risks to the mother or baby to collect cord blood. The cord blood is collected after the baby is born and the umbilical cord is clamped and cut, so neither the mother nor the baby feel any pain. Neither mother nor baby is harmed.

Am I able to donate?

There are some health requirements for donation. Please talk with your healthcare provider to determine if you are able to donate.



If I am able to donate, what are my choices?

You have several options regarding your baby's cord blood. You may:

- Have the blood discarded.
- Donate to a public cord blood bank. These banks collect and store blood at no cost, and the blood can be used for anyone in need who is a good match.
- Donate the blood for research.
- Store blood in a private blood bank. Usually, cells are stored to treat the donor or the donor's family members if conditions are treatable through cord blood cells. There is a fee to collect and store blood privately. The average collection fee ranges between \$900 - \$2000 with storage rates between \$75-\$100 per year.
- If there is a sibling medical need, some banks provide free or low-cost collection and storage. These are called sibling donor banks. There are private and public options for these types of banks.

This brochure was developed using information from the sites listed in the "Additional Resources" section.

Thinking about it?



If you think you'd like to store or donate your baby's cord blood, talk with your healthcare provider or call your local hospital before your third trimester of pregnancy to see what is available in your community.

Public storage options

Carolinas Cord Blood Bank

(919) 668-1116

www.cancer.duke.edu/ccbb/cordblood.asp

- Duke University Hospital
- Durham Regional Hospital
- Rex Hospital
- University of North Carolina Hospitals
- Wake Med of Cary
- Womack Army Medical Center
- Women's Hospital of Greensboro

If you do not deliver your baby at one of the NC hospitals listed above, you may call 919-668-1116 to obtain information about donating your baby's cord blood through the kit collection program at the Carolinas Cord Blood Bank at Duke University.

Private storage options

Cord Blood Registry (CBR)

(888) 932-2023

www.cordblood.com

ViaCord

(866) 388-3950

www.viacord.com

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

North Carolina Division of Public Health

www.ncpublichealth.com

919-707-5700

National Marrow Donor Program

1-800-627-7692

www.marrows.org/HELP

(Click [Donate Cord Blood](#))

Parent's Guide to Cord Blood Banking

www.ParentsGuideCordBlood.org

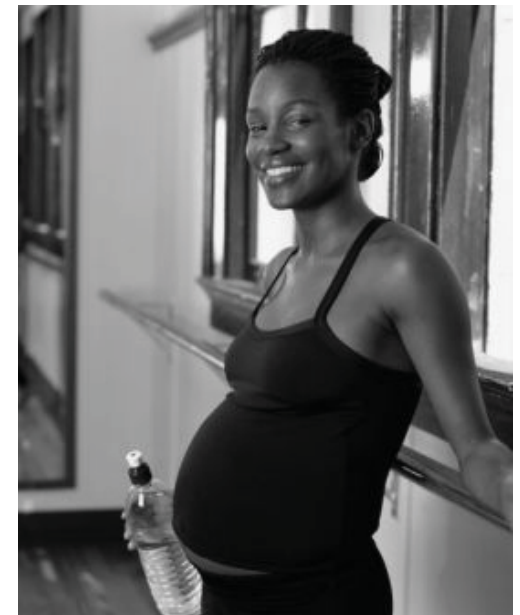
American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology

www.acog.org/publications/patient_education/bp172.cfm

Bone Marrow & Cord Blood Donation and Transplantation

<http://bloodcell.transplant.hrsa.gov/CORD>

Cord Blood Banking in North Carolina



State of North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health



www.ncdhhs.gov • www.ncpublichealth.com