

DONATING YOUR BABY'S CORD BLOOD

A Quick Guide and Answers to Frequently Asked Questions



About public cord blood donation

Umbilical cord blood is currently being used as an approved treatment for blood cancers such as leukemia and other metabolic diseases (similar to a bone marrow transplant). In addition to transplants, research is being done to explore its use in treating numerous other medical conditions such as diabetes, degenerative diseases, autism and many more.

There are three options for what happens to your baby's cord blood (you choose what is best for you and your family). This is a personal choice and whatever you decide will not change the care of you or your baby before, during or after your delivery. When considering the donation of your baby's cord blood, your choices include:

- Public donation
- Private family banking
- Discard as waste



When you donate your cord blood to the Cleveland Cord Blood Center, a public cord blood bank, you are agreeing to let us collect your baby's cord blood to be listed on registries for use in a patient in need of a transplant; use it for research; for a separate FDA-approved medical use; or discard the unit if it does not meet clinical criteria for the uses listed.

Cord blood donation: what to expect

Once you decide that you would like to donate your baby's cord blood, your nurse will notify the coordinator who will explain the process to you, answer any questions you may have, and ask you to sign a consent form.

- The coordinator will review your medical history for any items that may exclude you from donating (similar to donating blood).
- Your blood work will be drawn (5 tubes), about two tablespoons.
- After your baby is delivered, your medical provider will collect the cord blood while waiting for your placenta to deliver. Other than the collection of umbilical cord blood, we do not collect the placenta, and no blood is taken from the baby.
- If your cord blood meets criteria needed for transplant, it will be frozen for future use.
- After the birth of your baby, the coordinator will visit you in your post-partum room to complete a questionnaire.
- If your cord blood does not meet criteria needed for transplant, it may be used for research, approved medical treatments, or discarded.
- The Cleveland Cord Blood Center is staffed with nursing personnel who may contact you at home if there are any further health questions that need clarification. Nursing staff will also contact you in the future if the unit is chosen for transplant for a brief follow-up on the current health of you and your baby.

The cord blood donation process: how it works

Your baby's cord blood may be frozen for use in a lifesaving transplant, research, or other approved medical treatment. If necessary, it may be discarded. **Save a Cord. Save a Life.**



Your consent



Your blood is drawn and sent to CCBC for testing



Upon the birth of your baby, cord blood is drawn from the umbilical cord



Your baby's cord blood may be frozen for use in a lifesaving transplant, research, or other approved medical treatment. If necessary, it may be discarded



**Save a Cord.
Save a Life.**

Frequently asked questions

Q. Do you share my personal information with anyone?

A. We do not use any information that would identify you in any way to anyone outside of the Cleveland Cord Blood Center (CCBC). If your blood work comes back to us with any results that are outside of the normal range, we will share those results with your health care provider who can follow up with you.

Q. Will it cost anything to donate cord blood?

A. There is no cost to you for donating your baby's cord blood to the Cleveland Cord Blood Center.

Q. What is it used for?

A. Cord blood is used to treat many diseases, with treatment that includes transplantation in blood cancer patients – similar to the way bone marrow is used. It is also used in research to develop treatments for a variety of medical conditions ranging from diabetes, autism and AIDs, to Parkinson's disease and wound healing, as well as the exploration of regenerative cell therapies.

Q. What are you testing my blood for?

A. Because transplant patients are more susceptible to illnesses due to the fact that their immune systems are depleted prior to transplant, we test every mother for infectious diseases just like you would be tested if you were donating blood.

Q. Will our baby's cord blood be available to us?

A. Because CCBC is a public bank, all cord blood units stored at our facility are listed on registries for anyone in need of a lifesaving cord blood transplant. As a licensed public bank, we cannot store cord blood units for private use. However, if there is a need in your family and the cord blood you donated is still available and found to be the best match, it would be available for your use.



We are advancing umbilical cord blood cell therapy treatments: saving lives, enhancing health, and expanding knowledge one birth at a time.



**Cleveland Cord Blood
CENTER**

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