

## Is there a cost to donate or save cord blood?

There is no cost to **donate** infant cord blood to a public cord blood bank. There may be costs associated with family- or sibling-directed donor programs. If parents choose to store their infant's cord blood in a private bank, a collection fee that ranges from \$900 to \$2000 and an annual storage fee of approximately \$90 to \$150 may be required. Fees vary between private banks.

## How do we decide whether to donate?

The decision to donate or save cord blood is a choice that only expectant parents can make. It is important for expectant parents to talk to their health care provider so that they have all the information they need to make the decision that is right for their family.

With cord blood banking parents have the opportunity to save or donate precious stem cells for use in treatment of many diseases and save lives.



To find out more about cord blood banking and donation, contact the resources below.

**National Marrow Donor Program**-Lists of hospitals that accept cord blood donations.

**Phone:** 1-800-627-7692

**Web Address:** [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org)

**Parent's Guide to Cord Blood Banks**-Information for parents on cord blood banking, and lists private and public cord blood banks.

**Web Address:**

[www.ParentsGuideCordBlood.com](http://www.ParentsGuideCordBlood.com)

**South Texas Blood & Tissue Center**-Information on the process and benefits of cord blood banking and donation.

**Phone:** 1-800-292-5534

**Web Address:**

[www.bloodntissue.org/texascordbloodbank](http://www.bloodntissue.org/texascordbloodbank)

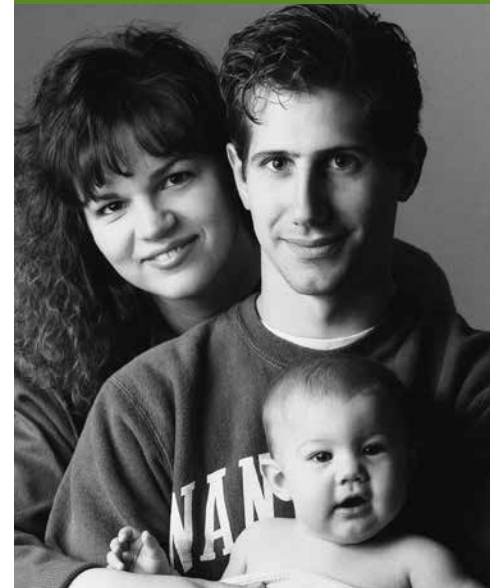
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**Texas Department of State Health Services**

[www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch)

Orders can be faxed to  
(512) 776-7413. Please include name,  
address, stock number and quantity desired.



# INFORMATION ON UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD BANKING AND DONATION



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT CORD BLOOD BANKING AND DONATION

**This brochure gives you basic information about cord blood banking and donation. Public cord blood banks are regulated by the federal government. There are some restrictions that impact donation. Cord blood banks should be contacted for more specific information on the process for donation and storage.**

## What is cord blood?

Umbilical **cord blood** is the blood that stays in the umbilical cord and placenta after the birth of your baby. It can be used to help treat diseases in children and adults. No blood is taken from a mother or her baby, only from the umbilical cord and placenta. If parents decide not to collect the blood, it is thrown away by medical personnel.

## How is cord blood used?

Stem cells from cord blood can be used to treat over 70 diseases in children and adults. The stem cells in the blood help to build new, healthy cells and replace cells that have been damaged. Cord blood has been used to treat certain cancers, inherited diseases and diseases of the immune system. Scientists are also studying whether cord blood can be used to treat other common diseases like heart disease, stroke, and brain diseases.

## How is cord blood collected?

After your baby is born, medical staff collects the cord blood and places it in a special container that is sent to the cord blood bank. The cord blood and mother's blood are then processed and tested. If the mother's blood shows the presence of any illness, the mother will be notified. If the cord blood bank determines the blood can be used, it is stored for future use.

## Who benefits from cord blood?

Cord blood transplants can help blood relatives, extended family members, and non-related children and adults. One of the benefits of cord blood is that an exact match to the person receiving the cord blood is not required. Cord blood benefits people who are waiting for life-saving treatments.

## Are there risks with cord blood collection?

There are no risks to the mother or infant when cord blood is collected. It is collected from the umbilical cord after the infant is born. Collecting the blood does not affect delivery or cause pain to the mother or infant.

## Are cord blood and embryonic stem cells different?

Yes. Embryonic stem cells come from developing human or animal embryos. Cord blood stem cells do not involve the use of embryos.

Stem cells from cord blood can be used to treat over 70 diseases in children and adults.

## Is there a demand for cord blood?

Yes. Thousands of people who could benefit from a cord blood transplant die every year waiting for treatment. There is an especially great need for more cord blood donations from ethnic and racial minorities.

## What are the options for handling cord blood?

Options for those who want to donate cord blood:

- ◆ Donate to a public bank, where your donation is made available to others, much like blood banks.
- ◆ Save cord blood through a family banking program. It will be available for family members for a fee.
- ◆ Save it for a sibling with medical need.
- ◆ Donate it for research studies.

You can talk to your health care provider and delivery hospital to find out which options are available to you. If you want to donate cord blood, talk to your doctor and contact a bank **before your 34th week of pregnancy**. Not all hospitals participate in cord blood banking Programs. Be sure to find out if your hospital participates in cord blood banking.

According to the Institute of Medicine, transplants of cord blood cells have saved the lives of tens of thousands of Americans.