Your Cord Blood Donation Options

Texas Cord Blood Bank
What is cord blood?

Cord blood is the blood that remains in the placenta after a baby is born. Cord blood has been found to be a rich source of stem cells and can be used as an alternative to bone marrow to treat many life-threatening diseases. Because these cells are normally discarded after birth, this is the ultimate recycling project.

More than 70% of children and adults requiring a bone marrow transplant do not have an immune-matched sibling who could be a donor. In that case, the only option is to find an unrelated donor through the national bone marrow and cord blood registries. Because immune types are specific to ethnic groups, it is important to collect cord blood units from donors of all backgrounds, especially Hispanics, African Americans, Asians, and Native Americans.

The Texas Cord Blood Bank (TCBB) allows families the opportunity to donate their infant’s cord blood, regardless of socioeconomic status, to ensure that all patients needing a bone marrow/stem cell transplant are given this opportunity.

The Texas Cord Blood Bank is a nonprofit organization housed in the South Texas Blood & Tissue...
Center in San Antonio. Established by the Texas state legislature in 2001, TCBB is registered with the national cord blood registry of The Be The Match Program.

To participate in donating your baby’s cord blood to the Texas Cord Blood Bank at one of our collection sites, you simply have to consent. For a current list of our collecting hospitals, visit our website: www.southtexasblood.org.

There is no cost to you. Everything that is needed for the collection will be provided for you at the hospital when you deliver. A sample of maternal blood will be needed and this may be done at the same time your other lab work is drawn—again, at no additional cost.

The collection process takes place following the birth of your baby, after the cord has been clamped and cut. Traditionally the placenta, cord and blood are thrown away following the delivery. By taking a few extra steps, we can collect this blood which is a natural by-product of birth and a non-controversial source of stem cells. If the collection meets the standards, the stem cells will be processed and stored for future use by seriously ill children and adults.

Following delivery, if the sample has been determined to be adequate, the RN coordinator will visit with you to obtain a thorough medical, social and family history. Every attempt will be made to do this at a time that is convenient for you.

By donating what is usually discarded, your baby’s first gift will be to help someone whose life is threatened by serious illness.

Cord Blood
An Extraordinary Gift from One Family to Another
Cord Blood Treatments

A cord blood transplant is an alternative source of blood-forming cells to bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cells.

Cord blood stem cells are used to treat various diseases such as

- leukemia
- blood disorders
- aplastic anemia
- lymphoma
- deficiencies of the immune system
- genetic disorders such as sickle cell anemia

Benefits of Cord Blood

- There is no risk to the baby or the mother.
- Since cord blood immune cells are less mature, they are more easily accepted by the patient when used in transplantation. As a result, patients with a less than perfect immune match can now be treated.
- There are fewer immune complications after transplantation.
- Since cord blood is banked and ready to use, it is immediately available when a patient needs it.

Ethnicity

Patients are more likely to find a match within their own ethnic group. More ethnic minority donors are vitally needed to give more patients a second chance.
At five months of age, Valentina had difficulty gaining weight and had a constant low-grade fever. Repeated doctor visits revealed nothing until a diagnosis of SCID (severe combined immunodeficiency) was made. Valentina received her stem cell transplant on April 18, 2011. Now her mother Edna describes her as “doing great and extremely active. Donating cord blood is the best thing parents can do.”

Jon, who is also living with Down syndrome, was diagnosed with lymphoblastic leukemia at the age of 10. Jon joined thousands of patients with leukemia and other life-threatening diseases hoping for a matching donor who can make their transplant possible. Jon could not find a matching marrow donor, but thankfully, he found one in cord blood. He received his transplant in early 2011 and continues to get stronger.

Colonel Raymond Holmes enjoys life anew because two birthing mothers made the selfless decision to donate their babies’ umbilical cord blood on the chance it might someday save a life. After battling non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma for many years, Col. Holmes received his cord blood transplant from two matching units. He is thankful each day for the decision those mothers made.
Non-Fixed Site Collection Program

TCBB has been selected as a site to participate in this pilot project which opens cord blood donation to everyone on a first-come, first-serve basis. A mother who plans to give birth at a non-fixed site can requested a cord blood collection kit from the TCBB.

Contact us prior to your 34th week of pregnancy, so that everything needed for the collection will be provided to you before you deliver.

Other Donation Options

We strive to provide you options to fit your specific needs. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and may be a life-saving gift for your family or for someone across the world.

In addition to public donation, TCBB offers three specialized cord blood banking options: non-fixed site collections, private storage, and related donor program.

Planning to store your baby’s cord blood in one of these programs requires advance preparation. Contact us prior to your 34th week of pregnancy.

To request the enrollment forms and talk to the nurse coordinator, contact TCBB at 800.292.5534, ext. 1865, or at cordblood@bloodntissue.org.

Four Million Births

There are an average of four million births in the United States each year. Only nine of ten mothers bank their baby’s cord blood. More donations equal more saved lives.
Private Storage Program

Banking your baby’s cord blood is an exclusive decision for you and your family. We recommend you seek as much information as possible to make the best choice. For a thorough source of information, visit www.bethematch.org.

We understand private storage is not for everyone. If you are interested in public donation, please visit the TCBB website. With either decision, it is important to make a choice that feels right to you.

Planning to store your baby’s cord blood requires preparation. Contact us prior to your 34th week of pregnancy.

Related Donor Cord Blood Program

Blood from your baby’s umbilical cord can be collected after birth and used to treat a biological sibling with a diagnosed disease. A cord blood transplant may, in fact, provide the best hope for treatment. The Related Donor Cord Blood Program offers families this opportunity. There is no charge for collecting and storing the cord blood if your family is eligible.

This service is provided free through a program developed by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The list below is a sample of qualifying diseases and conditions. The list continues to grow as research finds new ways to use cord blood.

- Bone marrow failure diseases
- Hematological malignancies
- Immune deficiencies
- Metabolic/storage diseases
- Platelet diseases
- Red blood cell diseases
- Whole blood cell diseases
- Sickle cell disorders
- Thalassemia disorders

Contact the TCBB for a final determination of eligibility prior to your 34th week of pregnancy. If eligible, TCBB will provide a collection kit to take to the delivery hospital.

Thank you for learning about cord blood donation. And congratulations on this new addition to your family!
Texas Cord Blood Bank  
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San Antonio, Texas 78201

cordblood@bloodntissue.org

(210) 731-5555, ext. 1865  
(800) 292-5534, ext. 1865

Visit our website:  
www.southtexasblood.org