

# Information for Mothers Regarding Directed Cord Blood Collection

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide you with clear information about how your cord blood collection will take place

**NHS**

**Blood and Transplant**

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Cord blood is the blood that remains in the placenta and umbilical cord following the birth of your baby. Usually, following the birth of a baby the placenta and umbilical cord would be thrown away, however the cord blood that they contain is known to be rich in stem cells, which can help to cure many life threatening diseases. It is for this reason that we have been asked to collect and store your cord blood for possible use in the treatment of a member of your family.

On your arrival at the delivery suite, one of the midwives will phone the collection team that National Health Service Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) have arranged to collect your cord blood. A trained cord blood collector will attend to perform the cord blood collection.

After your baby is born, the midwife will take the placenta and cord to a designated area within the delivery suite. The cord blood collector will ensure the cord blood is collected safely and in a way that minimises contamination and infection using a specially designed sterile collection kit.

All babies are different, so the volume of cord blood collected can vary, but we would hope to collect more than 50ml and possibly up to 150ml. After collection, the cord blood will be sent to the NHSBT laboratory for testing, processing and storage.

Samples of the cord blood and your blood will be tested in the same way as NHSBT tests blood donors. These tests include Hepatitis, Syphilis, HTLV 1 & 2, HIV 1 & 2 and some other blood borne infections. We have to do these tests in order to ensure that the cord blood is safe to be given to the intended patient. In the unlikely event that any test result is positive, your doctor will decide if it is appropriate to use.

If the baby has the same father as your affected child, there is at least a 1 in 4 chance that the cord blood will be a tissue type match. However, even if the cord blood is a match, your doctor will decide if it is appropriate for use.

The safe delivery of your baby is the main priority, therefore cord blood collection will only be attempted once your own and your baby's well-being are assured. If your baby arrives before 34 weeks gestation the decision to collect will be based on a medical assessment.

If you have consented to cord blood collection we will attempt to make a collection even if the delivery is by Caesarean section. NHSBT cannot guarantee that a cord collection will be possible or that any cord blood collected will be suitable for use, however every effort will be made to ensure a successful donation is made and stored.

Please **keep this information sheet in your medical notes**. In this way the midwives on the delivery suite will know that your cord blood has been requested for collection.