

Beginning in May, 2009 you may donate cord blood to The Public Cord Blood Bank of Louisiana at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge through LifeShare Cord Blood Bank.



You may donate your infant's cord blood if infant's mother:

- Is at least 18 years old
- Is pregnant with only one baby
- Is greater than 34 weeks gestation
- Is willing to sign a consent form prior to admission to hospital
- Is willing to complete a medical history about the baby's family members
- Will allow drawing of additional blood samples when routine blood is drawn

Make A Life Changing Decision!



When making the decision to donate cord blood, please contact the staff of LifeShare Cord Blood Bank at (225) 291-6677.

It is important for you to make cord blood donation arrangements before you are admitted to the hospital for the birth of your baby. Our staff will explain the process and answer your questions. Please tell your doctor about your plans. When you are admitted, notify the hospital staff that you would like to be a cord blood donor. It is a decision that can change someone's life!

"As a mother of small children, I cherish the miracle of giving birth. In Louisiana, giving birth can also give hope for renewed life to patients with cancer and blood diseases. Your baby's umbilical cord is the lifeline to hope. I urge you to donate your baby's umbilical cord to give hope and life to others. It's completely safe and painless for you and your baby. For more information about how you can save lives, contact LifeShare Cord Blood Bank: The Public Cord Blood Bank of Louisiana."
Supriya Jindal



LIFESHARE
CORD BLOOD BANK

THE PUBLIC CORD BLOOD BANK OF LOUISIANA

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**Cord Blood
Donation...
A Life Changing
Decision**

What is cord blood?

Cord blood is the blood that remains in the umbilical cord and placenta (afterbirth) after a baby has been born and the umbilical cord clamped and cut. This blood will be thrown away unless you choose to donate it.

How is cord blood used?

Specialized cells, known as stem cells, are taken from the collected and preserved cord blood. These stem cells are used for transplant into patients who are suffering life-threatening diseases.

How do stem cells work to treat disease?

Stem cells have the ability to become one of several types of blood cells. They may become oxygen-carrying red blood cells, infection-fighting white blood cells or platelets needed for blood to clot. The stem cells become the type of cells needed by the body to fight the disease.

What diseases are treated with stem cells?

Since 1988 stem cells have been used to treat children and young adults with aggressive blood cancers such as leukemia or lymphoma, blood diseases

like sickle cell anemia and genetic (inherited) diseases which affect body functions like phenylketonuria (PKU). Immune deficiency diseases in which the body attacks its own cells may also be treated with stem cells.

Who will use the cord blood from my baby?

Cord blood donated to a public blood bank may be used by physicians and hospitals nationwide to treat seriously ill patients with whom the cord blood closely matches. Your identity as the donor is protected and you are unknown to the recipient. Racial and ethnic diversity in cord blood donors is greatly needed to ensure stem cell transplantation is available to every patient who is in need.

Is donating dangerous for my baby or me?

The delivery of your baby is completed before the cord blood is collected. There is no risk to the baby and the collection will not interfere with your birthing experience. You probably will be unaware that the collection is taking place.

Are there costs to me if I donate?

There are no costs to you, your insurance or the hospital for the donation.

How are cord blood and bone marrow transplantation different?

The donation of bone marrow involves one of two medical procedures for the marrow to be collected from the adult donor. You must only give your consent for cord blood to be collected and provide a small blood sample taken from your arm. The stem cell transplant procedure is similar for both bone marrow and cord blood stem cells. The recipient receives the stem cells through a blood vein (IV) into the patient's body in the same way fluids or blood are given.

Does cord blood donation involve embryonic or fetal cells?

No. There are no tissues taken from miscarried or terminated pregnancies. Only the blood contained in the afterbirth - which otherwise would be thrown away - is used for cord blood donation.

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