



## Patient Information

# Cord Blood Stem Cell Collection and Banking

### Why have I received this leaflet?

You are receiving this leaflet as you have enquired about cord blood collection.

### At the Great Western Hospital

The Great Western Hospital Swindon does not hold a license to undertake stem cell collection from umbilical cord blood as required by the Human Tissue Authority (HTA), and does not support the collection of cord blood unless there is a clinical indication.

This decision follows careful consideration of available research, advice from the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Midwives, and recent guidance from the HTA.

Therefore the Trust will:

- Support the work carried out by the NHS Cord Blood Bank on allogenic (use by a family member) and directed blood collection.
- Support the local collection of cord blood when DIRECTED by a clinician for investigative purposes.
- Work together with families who wish to make their own private arrangements for collection of cord blood.

The Trust staff are not permitted to:

- Make arrangements with any third party for cord blood to be collected for any purpose other than those indicated above.
- Become involved in obtaining cord blood for autologous stem cell collection, or assist in the procedure.
- Compromise the safety and well-being of mothers and babies for the sake of cord blood collection.

If parents wish to collect cord blood, a private arrangement will need to be agreed with a commercial company operating independently of the Great Western Hospital.

*Our Values*

**Service Teamwork Ambition Respect**



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## Collection of cord blood by commercial services

Although the Great Western Hospital does not support commercial autologous cord blood collection, it will not refuse permission for parents who wish to make private arrangements with a commercial company directly, to collect the blood after a safe birth.

Please note that the Professional Indemnity insurance held by Midwifery and Medical staff does not cover them to undertake this procedure.

Parents who wish to have this procedure carried out following delivery of their baby/babies will need to:-

1. Provide written confirmation that any Company with whom a private arrangement has been made to procure and store stem cells, holds both a valid HTA licence, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
2. Make own arrangements to procure a sample (usually an individual employed by the Company offering storage).
3. Sign a 'Letter of Understanding and Disclaimer' Form in advance, to absolve Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust from any responsibility for collecting cord blood, or any mishaps that may occur during the collection and later storage of the blood.
4. Return the information outlined in 1-3 above, to the Clinical Midwifery Manager, Delivery Suite, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Great Western Hospital, Marlborough Road, Swindon, SN3 6BB.

Parents who have been advised by a health professional that stem cell collection is appropriate to their individual circumstances should ask their Community Midwife to arrange an appointment with a Consultant Obstetrician to discuss this further.

## Risks and benefits

The Trust's overriding priority is the safe care of mother and baby. Any possible risk to them will result in the collection of cells having to cease immediately.

There should be no alteration in the 'usual management' of labour, such as the delivery of the placenta or clamping of the cord. Some evidence indicates that immediate cord clamping could be harmful to babies. However, delay can prevent successful cord blood collection.

Cord blood collection may not be advisable or possible if:

- The baby is premature



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- The mother has a multiple pregnancy
- The cord is around the baby's neck and needs to be cut early to deliver the baby
- The delivery is by Emergency Caesarean Section
- Certain medications are being prescribed to the mother
- Either the mother or the baby's father have tested positive for a transmittable infection(s)

Further discussion regarding stem cell collection can be arranged by contacting the Clinical Midwifery Manager , Delivery Suite at the Great Western Hospital on 01793 604575 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700, excluding bank holidays)

Smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

**This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email [patient.information@gwh.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@gwh.nhs.uk)**

**Document Control**

Division: Surgery Womens & Childrens  
Department: Maternity  
Approved Date: 24 February 2021  
Next Review Date: March 2023  
Document Number: SW&C - PIL0012