

# CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES' CORD BLOOD BANK INFORMATION FOR CORD BLOOD DONATION FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



**This handout contains information about donating cord blood to Canadian Blood Services' Cord Blood Bank ("Cord Blood Bank") for biomedical research.**

Biomedical research on cord blood may increase our knowledge about blood stem cell transplantation and the processes for collection, manufacturing and storage of cord blood. Some researchers are studying stem cells from cord blood to determine or develop new treatments for diseases. Other researchers may use cord blood for research (not related to stem cells) that might lead to improvements in future medical care.

## ***When will cord blood donated to the Cord Blood Bank be used for research under the Cord Blood Bank's research program?***

Cord blood may be found unsuitable for storage if it does not meet the eligibility requirements of the Cord Blood Bank. Sometimes your baby's cord blood may be stored but later found to be unsuitable for transplantation. If at any time, the Cord Blood Bank determines that your baby's cord blood cannot be stored or used for transplantation, it could still be distributed to researchers in Canada and worldwide, to be used for biomedical research under the Cord Blood Bank's research program.

When preparing your baby's cord blood stem cells for storage, components are removed from your baby's cord blood. These components, also known as by-products, include for example, red blood cells. The components that are not used during the preparation of the blood stem cells for storage could be distributed for biomedical research under the Cord Blood Bank's research program rather than being discarded.

Under the Cord Blood Bank's research program, donated cord blood will be distributed for use in biomedical research **only** if:

- You have given your consent for your baby's cord blood to be used;
- Your baby's cord blood is found to be unsuitable for storage or for use in transplantation;
- Your baby's cord blood meets certain research criteria; and;
- The research project that will use your baby's cord blood has been approved.

Canadian Blood Services may provide your baby's cord blood or by-products to an approved research project on a cost recovery basis.

## ***How do I consent to donate my baby's cord blood for biomedical research under the Cord Blood Bank's research program?***

You must mark the Research Opt-In box on the Permission to Collect form if you want your baby's cord blood to be used for biomedical research. Otherwise your baby's cord blood may be discarded.

## ***Will the care my baby and I receive be affected if I do not donate my baby's cord blood to the Cord Blood Bank's research program?***

Your donation is completely voluntary. Your participation in the biomedical research program of the Cord Blood Bank has no effect on the care you or your baby receive.

## ***Are there any risks if I donate my baby's cord blood for biomedical research under the Cord Blood Bank's research program?***

There is no health risk to you or your baby if you donate your baby's cord blood for biomedical research under the Cord Blood Bank's research program. Canadian Blood Services will disclose only minimal information about you and your baby to researchers such as the date of collection, your baby's gender and the criteria we used to determine that your baby's cord blood was unsuitable for storage. Information that directly identifies you is replaced by a unique code. This way, the researchers will not know who donated the cord blood.

# CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES' CORD BLOOD BANK INFORMATION FOR CORD BLOOD DONATION FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



## ***Are there any benefits if I choose to donate my baby's cord blood for biomedical research under the Cord Blood Bank's research program?***

Though neither you nor your baby will directly benefit from donating your baby's cord blood, the cord blood is used in scientific and medical research to help patients in the future. Cord blood may be useful for developing drugs, medical and/or commercial products to treat diseases. The products may be developed and sold to the public, but you will not own any rights to the product or receive any financial benefit from them.

## ***What kind of biomedical research will my baby's cord blood be used for under the Cord Blood Bank's research program?***

Examples of cord blood biomedical research include:

- Improvements to current clinical practices that use cord blood
- Improvements to cord blood collection, manufacturing and storage
- Study of stem cell biology
- Discovery of other clinical and non-clinical uses of stem cells from cord blood
- Production of stem cell lines that could be maintained for many years and used for a variety of research purposes
- Development of drugs, medical and/or commercial products to treat human diseases

Canadian Blood Services must approve all research projects under the Cord Blood Bank's research program. The Canadian Blood Services Research Ethics Board will also review all projects. In addition, researchers must receive ethics approval from their own institutions and, if applicable, other advisory groups who supervise research.

If you donate your baby's cord blood, you cannot choose what kind of research or which research project your baby's cord blood may be used for.

Find more information about research projects using donated cord blood under the Cord Blood Bank's research program on the Canadian Blood Services website at [www.blood.ca/researchcordblood](http://www.blood.ca/researchcordblood).

## ***How will the research results be disclosed?***

The results of biomedical research using cord blood distributed under the Cord Blood Bank's research program may be presented at meetings or in publications, but your identity or that of your baby will not be disclosed. You will not be contacted about any research results presented or published. The Canadian Blood Services website has information about ongoing research projects and general results of completed research.

## ***What if I want to withdraw my consent for biomedical research under the Cord Blood Bank's research program?***

Donating your baby's cord blood is completely voluntary. You may withdraw your consent at any time. Call 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) and we will send you a form titled *Withdrawal of Consent to Participate in the Canadian Blood Services' Cord Blood Bank*. Complete the form and return it to Canadian Blood Services.

Please note, most cord blood distributed to researchers under the Cord Blood Bank's research program will be shipped within 48 hours of collection. If your baby's cord blood has not already been used for biomedical research it will be discarded. If your baby's cord blood has already been used for biomedical research under the Cord Blood Bank's research program, the cord blood sample and research results may not be withdrawn.

## ***What if I have questions about the Cord Blood Bank's research program?***

Call 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) or go to our website at [www.blood.ca/researchcordblood](http://www.blood.ca/researchcordblood) for more information.