



Cord Blood Banking

Cord blood is the stem cell-rich blood left in the umbilical cord and placenta after birth. It contains special cells called hematopoietic stem cells. These cells have the ability to transform into just about any human cell. The stem cells are used to treat over 80 life threatening diseases such as different types of cancer, genetic diseases, and blood disorders.

Cord blood is kept in one of two types of banks: public or private.

- **Private cord blood banks** store cord blood for use in the child from whom it was collected or for a family member. They charge a fee for the initial collection and then a yearly storage fee. Storing a child's stem cells as "insurance" against future disease is not recommended.
- **Public cord blood banks** store cord blood for transplants that can be used for anyone who matches. Donating cord blood to a public bank in the United States is free. Collecting cord blood for donation is safe and painless for you and your child, because it's done after the umbilical cord is cut.

Your donation could be a lifesaving match for a cancer patient! Most cancer patients who need stem cell transplants don't have a donor in their family, and they need parents like you to arrange for donation of their baby's cord blood.

There is a network of public cord blood banks in the United States that can take your donation. Most public banks are nonprofit organizations, and all public cord blood banks must meet stringent quality standards. If a mother meets eligibility requirements and her baby's cord blood is determined to be suitable for transplant, it's stored in a public cord blood bank, and the cord blood unit is listed on the Be the Match Registry. (Most blood found not suitable for transplant is used for further research.)

There are many different Cord Blood Banks that are accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks. Each company has information about their services and fees on their websites. After you have done your research on the different banks and make your choice, you would enroll with them and a kit will be sent to you. This kit will be used to harvest the Cord Blood at the time of delivery.

New York Presbyterian/Columbia is not a public cord bank donation site. In order to donate to a public cord bank, you need to register with one and mail in the cord blood. Most public cord banks require registration between 28 and 34 weeks of pregnancy.

Private cord blood banks

- **CBR:** <http://www.cordblood.com/>
- **VIACORD:** <http://www.viacord.com/>
- **Cryo-Cell:** <http://www.cryo-cell.com/>
- **Stemcyte:** <https://www.stemcyte.com/>
- **Natera:** <https://www.natera.com/cord---blood>

Public cord blood bank

- **Carolinas Cord Blood Bank:** <https://sites.duke.edu/ccbb/>