

## DONOR ENROLMENT FORM

Please read all sections of this leaflet carefully before enrolling. To enrol, fill in your contact details below.

I understand that my enrolment in the BMDI Cord Blood Bank does not guarantee that my cord blood will be collected. This may be due to several reasons such as restrictions on the basis of medical and family history, complications during the birth, limited resources or giving birth out of hours.

I understand that I will have a private interview with a BMDI Cord Blood Bank midwife to assess whether it will be suitable to bank my cord blood. This interview will take place on my admission to hospital, either before or shortly after the cord blood is collected.

I understand that after I have enrolled I can withdraw my cooperation at any time without explanation.

### Please supply the following information to enrol:

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Baby's Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital at which you will give birth \_\_\_\_\_

Obstetrician or Clinic \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital UR No (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please lodge this form at your participating hospital, or send it by mail using the pre-addressed envelope.

## Who should NOT donate Cord Blood?

Although we appreciate your willingness to donate cord blood, we need to protect the interests of the patients receiving the transplant and your own interests.

There are certain infections, such as AIDS, Syphilis, Hepatitis B & C, which may cause serious illness or may be fatal to a patient having a transplant.

***If you are aware that you are a carrier of these infections, or are in a high risk group for exposure to these infections you should NOT donate cord blood.***

When you donate cord blood, it is required that the cord blood and your own blood are tested for these infections. In the unlikely event that the tests show an abnormal or positive result, you will be informed by the BMDI CBB Medical Director and the cord blood will not be used.

***If you do not want to be tested or do not want to know the test results, you should NOT donate cord blood.***



a joint initiative of  
Fight Cancer Foundation  
The Royal Children's Hospital - Melbourne  
Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any queries or want more information, please contact:

BMDI Cord Blood Bank  
Level 3 South Building  
The Royal Children's Hospital  
Flemington Road  
PARKVILLE VIC 3052  
T: (03) 9345 5834 F: (03) 9345 4194  
E: cord.rch@rch.org.au

**Alternatively, contact the BMDI Cord Blood Bank  
Co-ordinator at the participating hospitals:**

**Royal Women's Hospital / Frances Perry House,  
Tel: (03) 8345 3385**

**Angliss Hospital, Tel: (03) 9764 6216**

*If you have any queries regarding patient rights or have concerns related to the BMDI Cord Blood Bank please contact:  
The Patient Representative of your participating hospital.*

A RONALD McDONALD  
HOUSE CHARITIES  
CORD BLOOD BANK



## Becoming a Cord Blood Donor



a joint initiative of  
Fight Cancer Foundation  
The Royal Children's Hospital - Melbourne  
Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

A Ronald McDonald House Charities Cord Blood Bank



#### COVER STORY:

### ***A Cord Blood Transplant Saved Wilson's Life***

At just 18 months of age, Angie and Scott's son Wilson, was diagnosed with a life-threatening and rare immune deficiency.

Fortunately, a life-saving treatment in the form of a transplant using cord blood from the BMDI Cord Blood Bank was offered to Wilson. Wilson may not be here today if a cord blood transplant had not been available.

## *Help save a life*

Umbilical Cord Blood Transplantation is an exciting science.

The donation of your cord blood can save the life of a child or adult suffering with leukaemia or another life threatening illness.

If you wish to become a Cord Blood donor, please read the following information carefully.

### **How Cord Blood Can Help?**

Transplantation of bone marrow or umbilical cord blood stem cells can be a life saving procedure for children and adults with leukaemia and other serious blood diseases.

"Cord Blood" left behind in the placenta and umbilical cord after the birth of a baby is a rich source of blood forming stem cells. Cord blood can now be used instead of bone marrow for transplantation.

### **The BMDI Cord Blood Bank**

The BMDI Cord Blood Bank is one of three public cord blood banks in Australia that together form the AusCord Network. The bank relies on altruistic donations of cord blood, to be used for the treatment of unrelated patients around the world. The BMDI Cord Blood Bank has now released more than 550 cord blood units for the treatment of patients requiring a cord blood transplant.

### **Cord Blood Collection**

The placenta (known as the afterbirth) and the blood in it have no function after the baby is born and are usually discarded. Therefore, collecting the cord blood after your baby is born, and the cord is cut, does not affect you or your baby in any way. Once this valuable cord blood is collected it can be taken to the laboratory for freezing and storage until it is needed for a life saving transplant.

### **Why We Need a Larger Cord Blood Bank**

Unfortunately, not every cord blood can be used for every patient who needs a transplant. As with bone marrow transplantation, cord blood can only be used if the tissue type is similar to that of the patient.

To increase the chances of finding a suitably matched cord blood, a large number of cord blood samples need to be collected, frozen and stored.

To achieve this, cord blood banks have been established worldwide. The BMDI Cord Blood Bank is part of a network of worldwide registries, so that cord blood can be accessed to treat patients anywhere in the world.



### **Is Your Cord Blood Suitable for Transplantation?**

To determine whether your cord blood is suitable for transplantation we need to assess the risks of transmission of diseases. For this we need your co-operation and you will be asked to:

1. Answer questions in a Donor Declaration and Medical History to make sure you are not in a high risk group of people exposed to blood borne or sexually transmitted diseases.
2. Answer questions about your medical and family history to determine whether there are any inherited diseases in your family.
3. Answer questions about your ethnic background. This information can be helpful in selecting the most suitable cord blood for a particular patient.
4. Allow us to test the cord blood for tissue type, and for the possible presence of viruses and bacteria.
5. Within 7 days of cord blood donation, allow us to take a sample of your own blood and test it for tissue type and for the possible presence of viruses.
6. After at least six months, to complete a short health questionnaire and if required, give a second blood sample from yourself to test again for potential infections.

### **IF YOU WISH TO DONATE CORD BLOOD**

Your participation is completely voluntary. There is no expense to you, nor will you be paid for participating. If we collect your cord blood and if your child or a family member happens to develop a disease in the future that requires a stem cell transplant, you may be able to access your own cord blood donation.

However two points should be noted:

1. It will not always be possible to collect or bank your cord blood, even if you give your consent and full cooperation. There are several reasons for this such as limited resources or giving birth out of hours.
2. If the cord blood has been collected and stored, it may have been used for another patient by the time you may wish to use it.

***If you would like to donate your cord blood, please fill in the attached enrolment form.***

You are not required to attend an interview prior to your hospital admission. When you come into hospital to have your baby, a BMDI Cord Blood Bank midwife will explain the cord blood collection procedure to you and ask for your written consent. The Consent Form states that:

- you understand all explained procedures,
- you allow the banking of the cord blood and its use for transplantation,
- you agree to have the cord blood and your own blood tested for potential infectious diseases,
- you agree to provide a medical and family history.
- you allow the BMDI Cord Blood Bank to access medical notes of both yourself and your baby,
- After at least six months, you will be required to complete a short health questionnaire and if required, give a second blood sample from yourself to test again for potential infections.

You will be asked to answer questions in a Cord Blood Donation Declaration. If you decide not to donate your cord blood, this will not affect your access to the best available treatment and care during your pregnancy and birth.