

## Information about your baby's cord blood

*Illinois State law requires that hospitals share the following information with pregnant patients. Please review this sheet so you can make an informed decision about your baby's umbilical cord blood.*

The blood that remains in your baby's umbilical cord and placenta after birth is referred to as cord blood. It is considered by many physicians and professionals in medical research to be an excellent source for stem cells, which can be used to treat a growing number of diseases as well as blood and immune disorders. Collecting your baby's cord blood is painless, poses no risk to you and your baby, only takes a few minutes, and may be lifesaving to your family or someone else's.

Expectant parents have three options regarding a baby's cord blood:

- Donate to a public bank.
  - Increases the national supply of cord blood samples for public use.
  - May help save the lives of those unable to find a stem cell match within their family.
  - There is no charge to donate.
  - **By donating your baby's cord blood, you give up all future rights to the cord blood.**
  - To learn about cord blood donation at a public bank, contact LifeSource at 1-877-448-2673
  
- Bank the cord blood for your family in a private bank. (This choice entails storage costs.)
  - Allows you to save cord blood for your family
  - Requires initial and ongoing fees each year.
  - For information about storing cord blood for your personal use, please contact your healthcare provider.
  
- Normal hospital disposal.

If you choose either donation or private banking, you must call a certified cord blood bank and arrange for public donation or private storage six to eight weeks before you come into the hospital to deliver your baby. The forms for public donation or private banking must be completed before labor, because a health screening questionnaire needs to be completed ahead of time. If you choose to donate, bring your completed questionnaire with you when you come in. The kits for collection are already at the hospital.

For more information on these options, go to [www.nmh.org](http://www.nmh.org). Scroll to the bottom of the page, and under health library, click "health references". Choose "women's health", and then click on "umbilical cord blood donation".

By signing below, I verify that I have read and understand the above information. I understand that:

- If I choose to donate or bank my baby's cord blood, I need to make these arrangements before my delivery.

Mother's Name: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_