

## NEW JERSEY PUBLIC UMBILICAL CORD & PLACENTAL BLOOD BANK INITIATIVE

Each year, thousands of people are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma and sickle cell anemia, as well as other immune system and genetic disorders. For many patients such as those without normal bone marrow, the best chance of treatment is a transplant of healthy blood-forming cells from a donor or a cord blood bank.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY, CONTACT:**

**THE ELIE KATZ  
UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD PROGRAM**  
970 Linwood Avenue West  
P.O. Box 39  
Paramus, NJ 07653-0039  
Telephone: 1-866-SAVCORD  
Email: [cordblood@bcrbc.org](mailto:cordblood@bcrbc.org)  
[www.communitybloodservices.org](http://www.communitybloodservices.org)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
IN SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY, CONTACT:**

**CORIELL INSTITUTE FOR  
MEDICAL RESEARCH**  
403 Haddon Avenue, Camden, NJ 08103  
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# UMBILICAL CORD AND PLACENTAL BLOOD DONATION

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

*Division of Family Health Services*



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RICHARD J. CODEY  
Acting Governor



FRED M. JACOBS, M.D., J.D.  
Commissioner

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UMBILICAL CORD AND PLACENTAL BLOOD DONATION

## WHAT IS UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD?

Umbilical cord blood is the blood available in the umbilical cord after the baby is delivered. Following delivery, the umbilical cord, placenta, and cord blood are typically discarded as medical waste.

## WHY IS CORD BLOOD SO IMPORTANT?

There are special cells in umbilical cord and placental blood called stem cells that are present in bone marrow. These are the cells that make bone marrow transplants work. Every year, about 30,000 patients are diagnosed with diseases that can be treated with umbilical cord blood.

## HOW CAN CORD BLOOD SAVE A LIFE?

The placenta and umbilical cord contain blood with large numbers of blood-forming cells called “stem cells” that can save lives. These special cells can develop into red blood cells that carry oxygen, white blood cells that fight infection, and platelets that help stop bleeding. Patients whose bodies can not make cells of their own can be helped by healthy blood cells from a matched donor, or an umbilical cord and placental blood bank. These cells can be used to treat leukemia and other diseases.

The public banks will also create a research bank of stem cells from placental blood that will be available for public research, and will benefit the public at large.

## HOW IS CORD BLOOD COLLECTED?

After the baby is born, umbilical cord blood is collected by a health care provider.

The collection takes about five minutes and is safe. Afterward, the blood is frozen in a special freezer. In this way, the cord blood can be saved for long periods of time. There is no discomfort associated with the cord blood collection.

Neither you nor your baby is endangered by the collection of umbilical cord blood.

## IS THERE A COST TO DONATE CORD BLOOD?

No. The New Jersey Public Umbilical Cord and Placental Blood Bank will cover the cost of cord blood donation and storage.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS IN CORD BLOOD DONATION?

None. There are no health risks to the mother or the baby. Because the cord blood and placenta are collected after the baby is born, the donation does not affect the mother or the baby.

## HOW CAN I DONATE CORD BLOOD?

You may contact one of the two umbilical cord and placental blood banks noted below, or a collecting hospital in your region prior to your delivery date. You will need to schedule a prescreen appointment to sign a consent form and provide a health history.

- If you reside in northern New Jersey, contact the Elie Katz Umbilical Cord Blood Program at **1-866-SAV CORD**.
- If you reside in southern New Jersey, contact the Coriell Institute for Medical research at **856-757-9718**.

## IS DONATING CONFIDENTIAL?

Yes. The information about your cord blood donation to the umbilical cord and placental blood bank is kept confidential. Your baby’s cord blood unit is identified by a number, and never by a name. Also, no identifying information is exchanged between a cord blood donor and cord blood transplant recipient.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO MY BABY’S CORD BLOOD?

After birth, the umbilical cord is clamped and cut. The limited amount of blood available inside the umbilical cord and placenta is then collected and sent to the umbilical cord and placental blood bank for processing. The cord blood can be transplanted into any patient whose physician considers the cord blood as a match for that patient.

## HOW IS CORD BLOOD USED?

Cord blood stem cells can be injected or transplanted into patients with leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell anemia or other life-threatening diseases. Your donation may save a life.

## PRIVATE STORAGE OR DONATION?

By private storage, it is meant that your baby’s cord blood is stored strictly for your private personal and family use. Ordinarily, companies that offer this service to consumers charge a fee. On the other hand, donation means that your baby’s cord blood is stored in a public umbilical cord and placental blood bank, and can be offered to anyone who is in need of a transplant.

## IS THERE A NEED FOR MORE MINORITY DONORS?

Yes. There is a greater likelihood for patients to find a matched cord blood unit within their own racial or ethnic population group. Although there are thousands of racially and ethnically diverse donors, there is still a critical need for more people of all races and ethnicities to participate as donors.

## WHY CORD BLOOD INSTEAD OF BONE MARROW?

The collection of bone marrow can be very painful. Cord blood transplants are effective as a remedy, and are comparable to bone marrow transplants for treatment of certain diseases.

