

Informed Consent for Storage of Umbilical Cord Blood

Umbilical cord blood contains a special type of cells, called stem cells, which can be potentially used to make new cells in a body. Current conditions that may be treated with cord blood transplant are limited to select genetic and blood disorders and some cancers. Any other condition treated with cord blood transplant is still considered experimental. To gather cord blood, stem cells from leftover blood in a baby's umbilical cord are collected after a baby is born and before the placenta is discarded. There is no pain or risk to the mother or baby since the cells are collected after the umbilical cord has been cut and the baby has been delivered. Cord blood can be frozen and stored for future use. Private cord blood banking is the only option at GBMC, as public cord blood banks are not available in Maryland at this time. By storing cord blood with a private bank, the cord blood (if adequate) will be available for your child or family member to use should the need arise in the future. Private cord blood banks charge a fee for storing these cells, and the cost depends on the specific bank used.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists does not recommend routine collection and banking of umbilical cord blood with a private bank and does not promote this practice as "biologic insurance" against future disease. (ACOG Committee Opinion #771, March 2017). However, the research in the area of cord blood transplantation is rapidly growing, and although the future applications are unknown, they may be promising.

If you wish to bank your baby's umbilical cord blood, the following stipulations apply:

- We will perform collection of your baby's umbilical cord blood at the time of delivery in a cord blood collection kit that you will obtain and provide at the time of delivery. You assume all responsibility in obtaining the kit and complying with the policies and procedures outlined by the private bank that you have selected.
- Umbilical cord blood collection is not considered routine medical care and will not be done if doing so would compromise your care or the care of your newborn.
- There is no way of knowing if the cord blood sample is enough or is suitable for storage until it is processed at the bank that you have chosen. The private company that you have chosen has its own policy regarding sample processing and evaluation. The cord blood sample may be rejected due to insufficient amount, contamination, or other unforeseen circumstances.

By signing below, you agree to the following:

- I have read the above information and acknowledge that I have been given the option of banking my baby's umbilical cord blood. If I decide to proceed with cord blood banking, it is my responsibility to contact a private company and follow its policies and procedures, including payment and provision of the kit at the time of delivery. It is my responsibility to inform all personnel involved with my delivery, including the delivering physician, of my desire to collect the cord blood.
- If I decide not to proceed with cord blood banking, I will not hold Capital Women's Care responsible for any regret or shortcomings that may arise in the future from this decision.

Patient Name: _____

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____