

GUIDELINE FOR WOMEN REQUESTING PRIVATE BANKING OF UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD AT BIRTH

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The latest approved version of this document is online.
If the review date has passed, please contact the Author for advice.

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Version Control

Version	Summary of Changes/Amendments	Issue Date
1	Initial Issue	Jan 2012
2	Reviewed and updated in line with European Union tissue and cells directive 2014	June 2015
3	Reviewed and Reference amended	Dec 2018
4	Reviewed and References amended	Oct 2021
5	Reviewed	Jan 2024

Engagement & Consultation

Key Individuals/Groups Involved in Developing this Document.

Role / Designation
Antenatal Screening Governance Lead

Circulated to the following for Consultation.

Date	Role / Designation
12/12/2023	Powys Midwives
12/12/2023	Midwifery Leadership and Management Team
12/12/2023	Members of the Women and Children's Policy Group
12/12/2023	Safeguarding Team

Groups Approved at

Date	Group
03.01.2024	Maternity Guidelines Group
15.01.2024	Women and Children's policy group

Evidence Base

RCOG - Umbilical Cord Blood Banking (Scientific Impact Paper No.2) (2006).

RCM position statement Commercial cord blood collection (2011)

Impact Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment Summary					
	No impact	Adverse	Differential	Positive	Statement
Age	X				Please remember policy documents are published to both the intranet and internet. The version on the internet must be translated to Welsh.
Disability	X				
Gender reassignment	X				
Pregnancy and maternity				X	
Race	X				
Religion/ Belief	X				
Sex	X				
Sexual Orientation	X				
Marriage and civil partnership	X				
Welsh Language	X				
Human Rights	X				
Risk Assessment Summary					
Have you identified any risks arising from the implementation of this policy / procedure / written control document? No risks identified.					
Have you identified any Information Governance issues arising from the implementation of this policy / procedure / written control document? As above					
Have you identified any training and / or resource implications as a result of implementing this? Nil identified					

1 Introduction

Since 1996, UK cord blood banking of haemopoietic stem cells (HSC) from umbilical cord blood has been undertaken by NHS facilities within the National Blood Service (NBS), funded originally from research and development funding, and more recently through the Department of Health (RCOG 2006). These donations are then stored for future potential use in unrelated transplantation, in a similar way to bone marrow donations. Both the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) support the collection of umbilical cord blood if it is medically indicated and for research purposes only.

Commercial services are now available, offering mothers the opportunity to store their own baby's cord HSC long-term, in case that child or his /her sibling ever develops a metabolic, immunological or haematological disease which could be treated by cord blood stem cell transplantation.

Some women decide with private companies for the storage of their babies' stem cells. This necessitates that blood is taken from the placenta at birth and transported to the identified organization for storage. The collection of cord blood is regulated within the Human Tissue Act and as such it has stipulated that cord blood can only be collected by people with specialist training and on premises that meet essential standards.

2 Objective

Within PTHB Maternity Services it has been agreed that while support should be given to women who wish to pursue stem cell collection, this will not extend to the taking of cord blood for this purpose, as it is vital that the midwife is not distracted from the immediate care of the mother and baby during the third stage of labour.

The overall aim is to ensure safe and effective care is provided to mother and baby in the immediate period following the birth, whilst allowing the mother to make an informed choice about the collection of cord blood for stem cell banking.

3 Definitions

- **PTHB** – Powys Teaching Health Board

4 Responsibilities

4.1 Head of Midwifery and Sexual Health

The Head of Midwifery and Sexual Health Services must:

- Ensure all staff read and understand this guideline.
- Arrange regular review to monitor compliance with this guideline.

4.2 Midwives

All midwives should:

- Ensure that information and any necessary paperwork are available and provided should a woman request stem cell collection.

5 Process

- Stem cell collection is a private enterprise, and midwives cannot recommend any companies.
- If a woman expresses an interest in cord blood collection, she should be given the patient information leaflet (Appendix A)
- Women should be made aware that Powys midwives do not participate in the procedure of cord blood collection for banking.
- Women should arrange with the provider of their service for a trained operator to take the blood for them i.e. a trained third party who is able to comply with the European Tissue and Cells Directive.
- Any person collecting cord blood must be acting under the authority of an HTA license, or where appropriate a third-party agreement (TPA) with an HTA licensed establishment. (HTA 2014)
- The Stem Cell Collection form (Appendix B) should be completed.
- Document in the client held records the woman's intention to collect umbilical cord blood for banking, and when the above information was discussed.

5.1 During Labour

- Low risk women requesting umbilical cord blood collection for banking do not need to deliver in a District General Hospital (DGH).

- Ensure the woman has signed the Stem Cell Collection form (Appendix 2) identifying who she has arranged to undertake the cord blood collection, if she has not already done so.
- Powys midwives DO NOT participate in cord blood collection for banking.
- Collection should be by a trained third party.
- The person identified to collect cord blood should sign Agreement to Work within Powys Teaching Health Board Policies and Procedures form (Appendix 3).
- Cord blood collection will not interfere with the normal management of third stage. The family and blood taker should not put any pressure on the midwife in attendance.
- Cord blood should be taken from ex-utero separated placenta to maximize maternal and fetal safety.
- Maternal and fetal condition takes priority. Therefore, cord blood cannot be taken when there is:
Prematurity
Multiple pregnancy
Postpartum hemorrhage
Retained placenta.

6 Monitoring Compliance, Audit & Review

Compliance with these guidelines will be monitored by the Datix reporting system and any issues raised through training days.

7 References / Bibliography

- European Union Tissue and Cells Directives (2014), www.hta.gov.uk
- RCOG/RCM statement on umbilical cord blood collection and banking (2011), MIDIRS, Midwifery News
- The Royal College of Midwives (2008), Position Statement No 1, commercial umbilical cord blood collection. RCM Midwives 5, 422-3
- The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists – Umbilical Cord Blood Banking (Scientific Impact Paper No.2) 2006.
- The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists – Clamping of the umbilical cord and placenta transfusion (Scientific Impact Paper No.14) Updated 03/09/2022.
- Leroy C Edozien. NHS maternity units should not encourage commercial banking of umbilical cord blood, BMJ 2006; 333

Appendix A

Patient Information Leaflet Regarding Stem Cell Collection

You may be considering having blood collected from your baby's umbilical cord for stem cells following delivery of the placenta.

This service is not available on the NHS, and Powys midwives will not carry out the collection for you. However, there are many commercial companies that offer this service in the UK. These organisations will be able to provide you with the specific information required to enable you to make an informed choice about what is right for you and your baby. It is your responsibility to ensure the company is licensed to the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) standard.

There is strong evidence available that allowing cord blood to pass through to the baby by leaving the cord unclamped has significant benefits for your baby, and you should consider this when making your decision.

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/guidance/browse-all-guidance/scientific-impact-papers/clamping-of-the-umbilical-cord-and-placental-transfusion-scientific-impact-paper-no-14/>

What does stem cell collection involve?

The procedure requires the collection of blood from the placenta soon after delivery by a trained individual (provided by the company). A needle is inserted into the umbilical cord and blood is then allowed to flow freely into a bag. This can take up to 40 minutes. After collection, the blood will be transported for storage by the company. At times it may not be possible to collect blood if the health of yourself or your baby will be compromised e.g., premature birth, retained placenta or excessive bleeding.

What do you need to do now?

If after consideration, you have decided to go ahead with stem cell collection you will need to:

- Notify the maternity unit where you are having your baby that you wish stem cell collection to be undertaken at delivery.
- Arrange with the company of your choice for a trained individual to be present at the time of delivery to undertake collection.
- Make clear plans with that individual as to how and when you or your partner will contact them.
- Have available the necessary equipment supplied by the company with you when you are in labour.

- Your named midwife will ask you to complete a short form for our records, detailing the name of the company and the person undertaking the blood collection.

Further additional information is available from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist (RCOG) - Cord blood banking: information for parents www.rcog.org.uk

Appendix B

Patient Agreement with Regards to Stem Cell Collection

To be signed by the woman who has arranged for Stem Cells from cord blood to be taken.

Name of Patient: _____

Unit Number: _____

Date of Collection: _____

I have arranged for – (insert name of person undertaking stem cell collection) _____ to collect stem cells from the cord blood and I am assured that they can meet all required Human Tissue Act recommendations.

Signature: _____

Name (please print): _____

Date: _____

Agreement to work within Powys Teaching Health Board Policies and Procedures

To be signed by the individual who is collecting stem cells from cord blood.

Name of Patient: _____

Unit Number: _____

Date of Collection: _____

I have been asked by the above-named patient to collect stem cells from the cord blood. While on Powys Teaching Health Board premises I agree to abide by their policies and procedures.

Signature: _____

Name (please print): _____

Name of Company: _____

Date: _____