

### **Umbilical cord blood collection**

Our Trust fully supports public banking of umbilical cord blood, which is of proven clinical benefit for some life threatening diseases such as leukaemia. If a woman wishes to donate to the bank, every attempt will be made to help her.

There are six maternity units that work closely with the NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) service, and we help women transfer their care to these units if they wish. NHSBT also support and fund umbilical collection for some families with certain medical conditions. We have, on rare occasions, has worked with NHSBT to facilitate this.

We do not support the collection of private umbilical cord blood/stem cell collections at any of our hospitals when it's being stored for later personal or family use unless it is supported by NHSBT, because most conditions that might be helped by stem cells already exist in the infant's blood. This is in keeping with advice given by many professional organisations around the world.

As a result, we as a Trust are not licensed by the Human Tissue Authority to participate in the collection or storage of stem cells from umbilical cord blood for commercial purposes, and will not give third party access to any of our birth environments for private collection.



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