

What is cord blood?

During pregnancy, blood passes between the mother and the baby through the placenta and the umbilical cord. There is a small amount of blood left in your baby's umbilical cord after delivery. This blood is a good source of stem cells.

Why save cord blood?

Stem cells can form into different cells and regenerate. This is why there is a possibility that they could be used to treat certain health conditions.

In Canada, parents have the option of storing their baby's cord blood for possible use in the future. This would be done through a private blood bank for a fee. This cord blood can possibly be used for your baby/child or for another family member if needed depending on the type of bank and options you choose. Keep in mind, the chance that you or any of your family members benefiting from the use of this banked blood is low.

I've decided to store my baby's cord blood, what happens at the hospital?

Please note that North Bay Regional Health Centre ONLY collects cord blood for banking at private banks. The Hospital takes no position on whether or not there is a benefit to this process and does not support any one cord blood bank. It is up to you to decide which cord blood bank to use and make arrangements for a cord blood collection kit to be sent to you. It is up to you to be familiar with what you need to do for the following stages:

1. Before coming into the hospital to have your baby
2. After delivery and collection of the cord blood
3. Shipping the collected cord blood
4. After the cord blood has been sent to the bank.

NOTE: This information should be found in your chosen cord blood collection kit.

The Obstetrician or Midwife will collect the cord blood if they are able to and the nurse will assist in placing samples in the correct containers. There is no risk or pain to you or your baby during this process.

You are responsible for the handling, packaging, and shipping of your collected samples. Please refer to the instructions in your cord blood collection kit.

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