

## Will there be any costs for me to have my baby's cord blood collected for the purpose of private cord blood banking?

Yes the private cord blood bank will charge you a collection fee and annual storage fee.

You will be responsible for these costs. SA Health will not be responsible for any of costs incurred in the collection, transfer or storage of cord blood for a private cord blood bank.

## What do I need to do to ensure my baby's cord blood collected for storage with a private cord blood bank?

You can only have the cord blood of your baby collected for the purposes of private cord blood banking if:

- > you have provided a copy of your informed consent to the health service where you plan on giving birth during your antenatal period
- > you have notified the private cord blood collector when you commence labour
- > the private cord blood collector is accredited to undertake this procedure in the health service where you plan on giving birth and is in attendance at the birth of your baby
- > you and your baby's clinical condition at the time allows the procedure to be undertaken.

### Important note:

A copy of your informed consent must be provided, during your antenatal period, to the health unit where you plan to give birth. The responsibility of obtaining informed consent for cord blood collection for the purposes of private cord blood banking, and the responsibility of arranging the collection, storage and transfer of the cord blood, lies with you and your private cord blood collector. The South Australian public health unit will not be responsible for any stage of the cord blood collection and banking process.

### Disclaimer:

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## For more information

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Copies of this publication are available from [www.health.sa.gov.au/ppg](http://www.health.sa.gov.au/ppg)

If you do not speak English, request an interpreter from SA Health and the department will make every effort to provide you with an interpreter in your language.



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Government  
of South Australia

SA Health

# Policy for the Collection of Cord Blood in South Australian Public Health Services



for the Purposes of Private  
Cord Blood Banking  
Patient Information Brochure



Government  
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## Background

Umbilical cord blood is the blood left behind in the placenta and umbilical cord after birth. It is rich in blood-forming stem cells and, over the past decade, donated cord blood (from unrelated individuals) has been used as a source of stem cells for transplantation in the treatment of malignant and non-malignant conditions affecting children and adults. A patient's own cord blood, may not necessarily be suitable for use in the treatments for which donated cord blood is currently being used.

Some mothers may wish to have their baby's cord blood collected after birth and stored for his or her own future personal use on the basis that therapies will be developed that use a patient's own cord blood stem cells. There is no reliable estimate of a child's likelihood of actually using their cord blood later in life. The potential for cord blood stem cells to be used in a range of therapies is being researched but not part of any currently approved therapy.

Collection of cord blood for an individual's own future use is a service currently provided by private cord blood banks.

## Where can I get more information?

Further information regarding cord blood collection for the purposes of private cord blood banking can be obtained from your perinatal health care provider

Upon request a health care provider will provide you with a copy of the SA Health policy, Collection of Cord Blood in South Australian Public Health Service for the purposes of Private Cord Blood Banking.

SA Health does not advocate the collection of cord blood for the purposes of private cord blood banking, but may be able to support the procedure if you and your baby's clinical condition remain stable.

## Can I have my baby's cord blood collected for the purpose of private cord blood banking?

Yes if you are able to make arrangements for the collection, storage and transfer of your baby's cord blood with a private cord blood bank collector.

The private cord blood collector must be accredited to undertake this procedure in the health service where you plan on giving birth. This person will need to be in attendance at the birth of your baby.

No South Australian public health service employee can, under any circumstances, engage the processes in securing informed consent, nor for the collection, labelling or storage of cord blood for the purposes of private cord blood banking.

## Do I need to notify anyone that I plan to have my baby's cord blood collected?

Yes, you should secure a consent form from the private cord blood bank, and provide a signed copy of this to the health care unit where you plan to birth, during your antenatal period

You should also be aware that it is your responsibility to notify the private cord blood collector when you commence labour.

## Are there any reasons I can not have my baby's cord blood collected for the purpose of private cord blood banking?

Safety for you and your baby is the main concern when having your baby's cord blood collected.

At the time of the procedure, if you and your baby's clinical condition are likely to be compromised by the procedure, the staff will not allow the procedure to be undertaken.

The private cord blood bank collector must be in attendance at your birth to collect the cord blood. SA Health staff are not permitted, whilst in duty, to engage the processes in securing informed consent, nor for the collection, labelling or storage of cord blood for the purposes of private cord blood banking.

