



About the program

The Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program, administered by UC Davis Health System, is California's first comprehensive public program designed to capture the genetic diversity of Californians through the collection of cord blood units for unrelated (nonfamily member) transplantation. The program is not a cord blood bank itself, but collects cord blood for public banks that list the units on the national registry.

Cord blood can save lives.

Donation is safe, easy and free.

Be a life-giver and a lifesaver.

How to donate

If you would like to become a cord blood donor:

- Call or email our office at 844-734-CORD (2673) or ucbcp@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu to find out if your hospital participates in the statewide collection program
- We will discuss next steps in the donation process and how we can help
- If your cord blood is collected and qualifies for public banking, we will administer a follow-up maternal questionnaire and blood draw for screening purposes

We welcome your questions. Please contact us for additional information.

UC DAVIS HEALTH SYSTEM

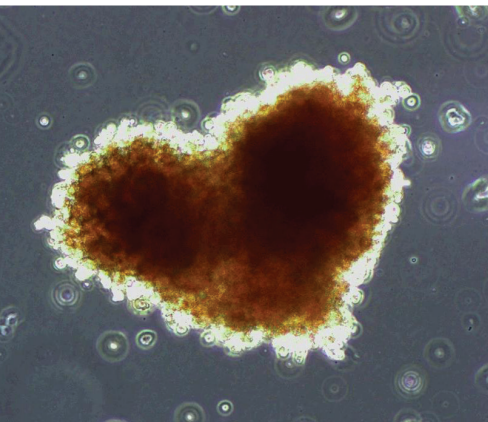
Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program
2315 Stockton Blvd.
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California's Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program

Administered by

UC DAVIS
HEALTH SYSTEM



“This program has the potential to save thousands of lives.”

Karen O’Donnell
Cord blood collection specialist

Mothers helping others

Mothers of newborns can now donate their babies’ umbilical cord blood free of charge to help families in need of lifesaving transplantation.

Why donate

Cord blood is the blood that remains in the placenta and umbilical cord after a baby is born. It is an important alternative to bone marrow for transplantation because it contains all the natural elements of blood and is rich in blood-forming stem cells. It also does not require as close a match between the donor and recipient as bone marrow.

Cord blood is used to treat a variety of diseases and holds promise as an important source of stem cells that could be used for potential medical therapies and treatments.

Today we know that cord blood can help treat over 80 diseases, including: leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell disease, Tay Sach’s disease, and other blood and immune disorders.

The effectiveness of cord blood is being studied as possible treatment for other neurologic,

autoimmune, cardiovascular and inherited (genetic) conditions, and may someday offer hope for a cure for many of the world’s most daunting diseases.

Who can donate

Most women expecting a single (non-multiple) birth and delivery date of at least 34 weeks gestation may be eligible to donate. Other medical and lifestyle factors are taken into consideration when determining eligibility. If you would like to donate or have questions, please contact our staff at 844-734-CORD (2673) or ucbcp@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu. A questionnaire available at bethematch.org* may help you determine whether you are an eligible donor.

*Enter “learn if you can donate” in the search box on that site to access the questionnaire.

Minority donations

Patients from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds usually have a more challenging time finding a donor match. Mothers of diverse or mixed-race ethnic backgrounds who donate their cord blood help increase the likelihood that all patients will find the match they need.

Frequently asked questions

Is donating cord blood safe?

Yes. The procedure is safe and poses no risk to you or your baby.

Does it hurt?

No. The cord blood is collected after the umbilical cord is detached from baby. Your doctor will collect the cord blood before the placenta is delivered, or will transfer the placenta after delivery to another area for collection by a trained specialist.

Will this change my delivery plan?

Your delivery plan is not altered, though you must sign the donation consent. The health-care team is then aware that you are a donor and works directly with the collector.

Where does my baby’s cord blood go?

The program is not a cord blood bank itself, but collects cord blood for public banks. After collection, your baby’s cord blood is assessed to see whether it meets the criteria for public banking. Assessing the blood requires counting the cells. If your baby’s cord blood unit does not have enough cells for banking, we will remove all personal information and give it to a qualified researcher working with cord blood or dispose of it safely.

What does it cost to donate cord blood?

As part of a statewide public program, donating to the Umbilical Cord Blood Collection Program is free.

May I change my mind?

If you change your mind before the blood is collected, just let your doctor or the collection specialist know and we will not collect it. If you change your mind after the cord blood has been collected, we will dispose of it properly if it has not yet been disbursed for banking or research.

May I access my baby’s cord blood once it is stored?

While you may not, by donating cord blood you improve the chances of everyone finding a match in the public registry. As an unrelated cord blood unit is usually required for transplant, the transplant team will work with the cord blood bank to determine that it is not your own unit if you or your loved one needs a transplant.