

COLLECTION OF CORD BLOOD AND TISSUE FOR STEM CELLS

We have an increasing number of women delivering their babies at The Portland Hospital, who are exploring the option of collecting and storing umbilical cord blood for stem cells collection. The laws relating to cord blood/tissue collection and storage are complex.

We have therefore attempted to provide an abbreviated summary below of the legal obligations surrounding the collection of umbilical cord blood/tissue in the UK, to enable you to evaluate your options with respect to your pending delivery at The Portland Hospital. The collection of cord blood and tissue for stem cells in the UK is regulated under the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) Regulations 2007 (The Regulations).

The Regulations were established to set standards of quality and safety for the donation, collection, testing, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of human cells to safeguard both the donor and recipient. The Regulations require the collection of umbilical cord blood/tissue to be undertaken only on HTA licensed premises, or on premises where a third party agreement is held with a HTA-licensed premise.

Please note that the Portland Hospital is not a licensed premise but holds a Third Party Agreement with 4 Cord Blood Banks which may be utilised by women intending to have umbilical cord blood/tissue collected. These are as follows:

- Biovault
- Cells 4 Life
- Future Health Technologies
- Smart Cells

Throughout your delivery and in the immediate hours post-delivery the priority of care for both your Consultant Obstetrician and our Midwives is the safety and well-being of you and your baby. For this reason the Portland Hospital has taken the decision not to allow Consultant Obstetricians or Midwives to procure cord blood or tissue on your behalf. If you choose to proceed with cord blood or tissue collection it is your responsibility to make independent arrangements with one of the listed Cord Blood Bank Companies to request a phlebotomist or technician to attend the delivery to undertake this process on your behalf. This process will also include collection of a maternal blood sample.

The Portland Hospital advocates patient choice and informed decisions, so we hope the above provides the required information on the legal framework around umbilical cord blood and tissue collection. Further information is available from The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 'Cord blood banking: information for parents' available from www.rcog.org.uk.

