

## The Facts about Umbilical Cord/Placenta Blood Donation

### What are stem cells?

Stem cells are different than any other cell in the body. They are not specialized to be certain body parts or tissue such as muscle cells or skin cells. Along with not being specialized, stem cells are capable of dividing and making more of themselves for long periods of time; and they can generate specialized cell types. For instance, when someone loses blood, the stem cells in his or her bone marrow make more blood.

### Why umbilical cord and placenta blood stem cells?

Newborn babies no longer need their umbilical cords, so they have traditionally been discarded as after birth waste. In recent years, however, **umbilical cord and placenta blood** has been found to be rich in adult stem cells.

### What are the benefits of umbilical cord and placenta blood stem cells?

The use of these stem cells has been proven to help treat patients with: Multiple sclerosis, Lupus, Juvenile diabetes, Arthritis, Spinal cord injuries, Gunther's disease, Hunters syndrome, Hurler Syndrome, Acute lymphocytic leukemia and many other autoimmune diseases.

### Is cord blood stem cell research ethically responsible?

**Yes. Umbilical cord and placenta blood stem cell** research is taken from tissue that would normally be discarded. There is no loss of life involved in it, as opposed to embryonic stem cell research which destroys human embryos.

### Ask your physician about Umbilical Cord and Placenta Blood Donation

or call

#### **Cord Blood Coordinator**

Community Blood Services

1-866-savcord (1-866-728-2673)

cordblood@cbsblood.org.

The coordinator will be happy to talk with you about the donation process and how you can enroll in this important program.

For more information please check the following websites

[www.communitybloodservices.org](http://www.communitybloodservices.org)

[www.parentsguidecordblood.org](http://www.parentsguidecordblood.org)

[www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife)