

**Approvals:**

*Maternity Guidelines Group: Sep 07, Jan 08, V6 Dec 2011/Feb 2012, V7 Jun 2013/Oct 2014, V7a Aug 2018*

*Divisional Board: Apr 08, V6 Feb 2012, V7 Aug 2013*

*Clinical Guidelines Subgroup: not required*

*MSLC: Jan 08, V6 Jan 2012, V7 Aug 2013*

*Equality Impact Assessment: V5 Mar 2011*

*Patient Experience Group: Feb 08, V6 April 2012*

## **Division of Women, Children & Sexual Health Services**

### **How can I help to reduce healthcare associated infections?**

Infection control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. We ask that you, and anyone visiting you, use the hand sanitiser available at the entrance to every ward before coming into and after leaving the ward. In some situations hands may need to be washed at the sink using soap and water rather than using the hand sanitiser. Staff will let you know if this is the case.

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# Commercial Umbilical Cord Blood Collection

## **Patient information leaflet**

If you want to read this leaflet in another language please call your midwife

**Safe & compassionate care,**

**every time**

At Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust we do not endorse the routine collection of cord blood stem cells for commercial reasons.

### Why we do not undertake the taking of umbilical stem cells for commercial reasons

Our position is based on guidance from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, The Royal College of Midwives and advice from the National Health Service Litigation Authority.

From July 2008 the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) requires NHS Trusts who wish to procure cord blood for stem cells to obtain a licence to undertake this practice. Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust maternity services do not have a licence to undertake this procedure, nor do they intend to obtain one for the foreseeable future.

### Engaging a commercial company

Although there is no scientific evidence to support routine commercial collection of cord blood we recognise that this may appeal to some parents.

If you wish to collect blood from your new baby's cord there are commercial companies who have a licence to do this for you. In order to facilitate this choice the Trust will allow these companies to practice on Trust premises with the following conditions.

- All discussions and arrangements with the independent company are the responsibility of the parents.
- It is understood that Trust staff are not able to assist with the collection in any way. By doing so without a licence they would be committing an offence under the Human Tissue Act.

- The Trust disclaimer is completed and returned prior to the birth of your baby.
- The parents will arrange for the commercial company to be given a copy of the Trust guidance including infection control requirements and a representative of the company needs to agree and sign the disclaimer.

If you wish to pursue commercial cord blood collection please talk initially to your community midwife who will arrange for you to have further discussions with a senior midwife or obstetrician.

Further information available from:

[www.hta.gov.uk/licensingandinspections/sectorspecificinformation/stemcellsandcordblood.cfm](http://www.hta.gov.uk/licensingandinspections/sectorspecificinformation/stemcellsandcordblood.cfm)

We continually strive to improve the quality of information given to patients. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this information booklet, please contact:

Head of Midwifery  
Division of Women, Children & Sexual Health Services  
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust  
Stoke Mandeville Hospital  
Mandeville Road  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire  
HP21 8AL