



# Cord For Life®

## Instructions for Cord Blood Collection

Please read all instructions carefully before collection. Contact Cord For Life if there are any questions or problems.  
A technician is on call 24 hours a day for assistance with the cord blood collection.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Cord For Life **CANNOT** accept public donations from collections occurring between Friday 3:00PM (EST) and Sunday 3:00PM (EST).

### CORD BLOOD COLLECTION

#### **FOR IN-UTERO DELIVERY (VAGINAL OR C-SECTION)**

**IMPORTANT:** Collection bag is sterile and can be used for C-Section deliveries within the sterile field.

1. Verify the identification of the birth mother using a minimum of two (2) identifiers, prior to the procurement of cord blood.
2. Cord blood is collected following delivery of the infant, after the umbilical cord is cut, and while waiting (and during) delivery of the placenta. Do not collect if the baby is less than 34 weeks.
3. Remove the collection bag from its foil pouch and inner sterile wrapper.
4. Swab a site on the cord with the povidone-iodine pad provided in the kit using the following:

**NOTE:** If venipuncture area is touched at any time after the cord is cleansed and prior to performing the venipuncture, the area must be re-scrubbed.

- a. Open the povidone-iodine pad, and thoroughly cleanse the venipuncture area, approximately 30 seconds.
- b. Open the alcohol pad and carefully wipe the povidone-iodine cleansed venipuncture area.
- c. Allow cleansed area to dry.

5. Insert the collection needle attached to the cord blood collection bag into the cleansed area of the umbilical vein and lower the umbilical cord below the perineum.

**IMPORTANT:** The collection bag must be placed lower than the placenta to allow the blood to drain by gravity into the bag. Minimize manipulation of the umbilical cord as this will adversely affect the volume of blood obtained.

6. Allow blood to drain until the cord is blanched white. **SUFFICIENT VOLUME OF CORD BLOOD IS A CRUCIAL FACTOR FOR ITS USE AS A TRANSPLANT!** Allow as much blood as possible to be collected. A minimum collection volume of 60 cc or more is strongly suggested for the cord blood to be considered usable. It is not unusual for the collected volume to be above 100 cc.

**IMPORTANT:** Including the weight of the collection bag and clamp, a 60 cc collection would weigh at least 135 grams. If less than 60 cc of cord blood is collected, please attempt to collect more by reinserting the needle into a newly cleansed site of the umbilical vein.

**NOTE:** A second venipuncture can be performed at a higher area; however, cord should be rescrubbed prior to performing the 2<sup>nd</sup> venipuncture.

7. Following the collection (which usually takes no longer than five minutes), perform the following:
  - a. Use the needle guard and cover the needle.
  - b. Close the clamp located between the "Y" tubing connector and the needle guard.
  - c. Cut off the covered needled and dispose as required by the collection facility.
  - d. OPEN THE BLUE AIR VENT CAP AND DRAIN THE BLOOD REMAINING IN THE TUBING INTO THE COLLECTION BAG!**
  - e. Cut the tubing halfway between the blue vent and access port.
  - f. Close the air vent and mix Blood thoroughly.
  - g. ENSURE UNIT IS TIGHTLY SEALED USING THE TUBING CLAMP AND KNOT IN TUBING!**
  - h. Dispose of the needle as required by your facility.

**Immediately** after collection Write the mother's first and last name, date of collection, the name of the physician/collector, the name of the collection facility, and the date and time drawn on the yellow cord blood identification label provided.

**NOTE:** The Hospital ID label may also be used by adhering to the yellow cord blood label.

8. Confirm the mother's identity by a minimum of 2 identifiers.
9. Verify that the mother's name on her wristband is the same as the name written on the cord blood label.

Cord For Life, Inc.(CFL)  
270 Northlake Blvd., Suite 1012, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32701  
407-834-8333 or 800-869-8608

10. **AFFIX THE YELLOW IDENTIFICATION LABEL DIRECTLY TO THE “NON – LABELED” SIDE OF THE COLLECTION BAG.** Cord blood units that are unlabeled cannot be processed.
11. Weigh the collection bag containing the cord blood. Write the weight in grams on the yellow cord blood label and have this information available when you notify Cord For Life of the delivery and cord blood collection.
12. The cord blood must remain at room temperature to ensure viability of the stem cells. **DO NOT REFRIGERATE.** Refrigeration at 4° C adversely affects the viability of the stem cells.
13. **COMPLETE THE BLUE IMPORTANT DELIVERY INFORMATION SHEET, FORM C.2-3,** provided in the kit. **This form is required.**
14. Retrieve Form C.1-3 from the collection kit and follow the instructions for packaging the unit and tubes.

#### **FOR AN EX-UTERO DELIVERY**

1. The collection may be performed after the placenta is removed from the uterus. Using the method below, collection of the umbilical cord blood can be performed up to 20 minutes after delivery of the placenta. **IMPORTANT!** This method typically results in less blood volume collected, it is important to be diligent in collection as much blood as possible.
2. Place the placenta and umbilical cord in a tray with the cord freely hanging down.
3. Swab a site on the cord with the povidone-iodine pad provided in the kit using the following:
 

**NOTE:** If venipuncture area is touched at any time after the cord is cleansed and prior to performing the venipuncture the area must be re-scrubbed.

  - a. Open the povidone-iodine pad, and thoroughly cleanse the venipuncture area, approximately 30 seconds.
  - b. Open the alcohol pad and carefully wipe the povidone-iodine cleansed venipuncture area.
  - c. Allow cleansed area to dry.
  - d. Perform the collection using Step 5-15 on page 1.
  - e. Follow steps 7- 14 on page 1-2 for final steps.

#### **MATERNAL BLOOD DRAW**

1. Five (5) tubes have been supplied with the kit to draw the maternal blood for required infectious disease testing. The blood can be drawn during labor or shortly after birth; anytime within 48 hours of the cord blood collection.
2. Complete the required information on the Maternal Sample Collection Record, Cord For Life Form C.1-6.
3. Place a hospital addressograph label on each tube of the maternal blood (**if hospital labels are not available, write the mother’s full first and last name and Date of Birth on the tubes.**)
4. Collect the five (5) tubes, ensuring tubes are filled completely. Tubes received with insufficient volume will prevent complete testing and unit will be unacceptable.
5. Fill out the green label with the phlebotomist’s initials, date and time of collection, and place on the absorbent tube-holder sleeve.
6. Place the tubes in the absorbent sleeve and add **completed Form C.1-6** with the other completed and required documentation to be returned with the collection.
 

For Programs Only: If tubes are to be sent at a later time, **ensure the Form C.1-6** accompanies the maternal sample tubes.

#### **POST DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS**

**During Normal Working Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM (EST):

- Contact Cord For Life **within two hours** after the cord blood collection at 800-869-8608 or 407-834-8333 for further instructions.

**After Normal Working Hours:**

- There is a message system in place. Please follow the instructions for leaving a message. A Cord For Life Representative will return your call the following morning including Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.
- If you feel this is an emergency and you need to speak to a technician immediately, press extension #2 to have him/her paged. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

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