

Special Delivery

Spring 2018

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Cord Blood Donation: The McFadden Family's Story

Donor story featured in The Blood Line, Bloodworks Northwest's blog

Like many expectant parents, Iris and Joel McFadden were anxious to learn everything they could before the birth of their first child, including the decision to donate umbilical cord blood.

Iris recalls,

When we first got pregnant we looked at all the websites and there's a lot of advertising for private cord banking. It seemed like a good idea, but we don't have the money to bank, plus the yearly fees. I thought, 'I wonder if they do donations!'

The Gig Harbor couple learned that BloodworksNW's cord blood program was free for donor families to participate in and they could make all the arrangements in advance with their hospital. They liked that cord blood donation benefited research and kids with leukemia — "it could help anyone: family, neighbors, friends or someone we don't know," adds Joel.

The McFaddens wondered what might happen if their daughter ever need her own cord blood for a transplant, but read that a child's own cord blood is often not even suitable for their own use because the genetic mutations that cause many disorders are present in it. They agreed that donating cord blood was the right decision for their family and would help others who are looking for a match.

Cord blood collection started at Multicare Tacoma General Hospital not long before the McFadden's daughter, Marina, was born in February 2015, making donation available for the first time in the South Puget Sound; Marina was among the first donors at the hospital.

Iris was impressed by how the actual donation didn't interfere with her family's bonding following delivery.

We held our baby, and I guess they were just doing it on the side. If we didn't know we were donating, we wouldn't have noticed it — we were so happy she was healthy and safe.

Iris, a flight attendant, and Joel, a firefighter in Pierce County, have been enjoying their time with Marina, now 4 1/2 months.

She's really mellow. We've been really blessed to have a healthy baby girl. She's such a ham — if we go anywhere, she's looking at everyone and smiles at them.

Iris and Joel would encourage everyone to consider cord blood donation. Says Iris,

If it can save someone's life — something we weren't going to use anyways — I'm glad it would go to someone who could use it.

Hopefully it changes someone's life!

Who Ya Gonna Call?

We've recently changed our available hours! Now, you might be wondering "When will I be able to talk to a Cord Blood Donation Coordinator?" Here are the hours we can be reached:

Monday through Friday: 7 am to 4:30 pm

Saturday and Sunday: 8 am to 12 pm

Our office number is 206-689-6696

If there's no answer, our cell number is 206-388-9185

"But what if you're not there when I call?" Worry not – if you leave a voicemail, we'll follow up bright and early the next morning. We encourage you to address cord blood kit and admit packet inventory needs earlier in the day Monday to Friday. Thank you for Saving Lives in partnership with Cord Blood Services!



Percy the Placenta is here to answer your calls!

Packaging Demonstration Video

Are you one of those people who can read instructions and know exactly what they mean? Or do you thrive on Ikea's pictograms?

At the cord blood program we understand that everyone has a different learning style, so we're rolling out video and pictorial training for collection.

Our introductory module comes from one of our highest preventable discards: packaging! This brief video demonstrates the process, with a voiceover explaining the steps. The steps are repeated at the end for you to read as well. The next page of the newsletter shows the steps with photos as well.

Watch the video online by visiting <https://youtu.be/CY4G4Egg4nl>

You can also find the link to the video on Bloodworks Northwest's website. The Cord Blood Program has a page dedicated to Cord Blood Collectors and includes links to forms and instructions. <https://www.bloodworksnw.org/donate/cordblood/collectors>

*Cord Blood
donation
coordinators are
standing by!*

*M-F: 7:00 - 16:30
S&S: 8:00 - 12:00*

*206-689-6696
206-388-9185*

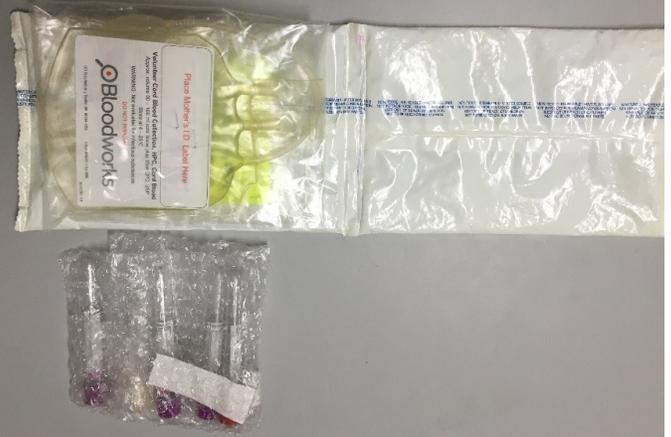


Unfolded Gel Pack



Step 1 part 1

Place Cord Blood Unit on Gel Pack



Step 1, part 2

Place Maternal Samples on top of the Cord Blood Unit



Fold Gel Pack in half over Maternal Samples and Cord Blood Unit

Step 2 part 1



Step 2 part 2

Gel Pack should be folded in half



Step 2 part 3



Step 3

Shimmy the Gel Pack into the foil pouch gently to keep the flaps even



1. Place the cord blood unit and maternal samples on the bright sticker
2. Sandwich the cord blood and maternal samples in the gel pack, keeping flaps even
3. Shimmy the folded gel pack into the foil pouch
4. Do not force one side of the pack into the pouch – this will cause the flaps to be uneven

Foil pouch does not need to be sealed shut

Updated Short Screening Form



Cord Blood Donor Short Screening Form

MATERNAL INFORMATION						
Baby's Mother's Full Name (Please Print)		Today's Date		Baby's Mother's Birth Date		
Previous/Other Name(s) Used (e.g., Maiden Name, Nickname)				Baby's Mother's Email Address		
Mailing Address		Apt.#	City	State	Zip Code	
Primary Phone	Secondary Phone	Signature of Person Completing this Form and Relationship to Baby's Mother				
If interpreter used, add name and phone number here			Language Spoken	Dialect		
BABY'S RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND						
(Check all that apply)						
	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic/Latino	Black/African American	White	Amer. Indian/Alaska Native	
Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you (Baby's Mother) ever been told not to donate blood or cord blood? <i>If yes, please explain why and when.</i>					YES	NO
In the past 12 months, did you (Baby's Mother) receive a transfusion of blood from someone other than						

Hospital interpreter information will be utilized by Donation Coordinators if we need to verify any donor information, and to schedule a family medical history and travel screening with the donor.

Soon you'll see our new short screening forms in your hospitals. You might be wondering "what's the big idea? Why are you guys changing it?" – and I'm here to tell you more.

Our big change to the form has been circled above. There is a section for Hospital Interpreters to include their name and phone number when they assist any of our non-English speaking donors. This contact information will be utilized by Donation Coordinators if we need to verify any donor information, and to schedule a family medical history and travel screening with the donor.

We've also added a space for the language (and dialect) to help the coordinators in setting up an interpreter call with the donor. Once a time has been planned, our staff will reach out to the donor directly with the help of our contracted interpreter service.

The new forms were rolled out to partner hospitals on January 29th, and may also be viewed online at <https://www.bloodworksnw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/25-9-106.pdf>



Collector Recertification Technical Difficulties

By now, you might have received what feels like weekly e-mails about your cord blood recertification, but every time you log in, it just won't work! The best way to get the donation coordinator out of your e-mail box is to send a message.

Unfortunately, our training system doesn't always play nice with all of our partner hospitals, so we've become quite adept at troubleshooting.

One common problem is that the system doesn't even recognize you! "User not authorized." is the error message you might receive. This happens if

- Your e-mail address has changed (IE: due to a name change, hospital ownership change)
- Your training expired the previous quarter

This is easily resolved by one of our coordinators updating the system to ensure your name, e-mail address, and participating hospital are all updated. If your training expired last quarter, we will assign the current quarter's training to you.

A huge problem affecting some of our partner locations is that after logging in, the pages all appear blank! We understand that training can't be properly completed if there's nothing visible, please give us a ring or send a message, and we'll make sure you can review the training and complete the quiz online.

ProProfs is an external program and sometimes surprises us with new "features." If you ever have a problem getting in or completing the course or quiz, please hit Reply on that e-mail and we'll get back to you ASAP!



***Call or e-mail
Cord Blood
Services if
you're unable to
access or
complete your
annual collector
certification.
We can help!***

CONTACT US:

Phone: 1-800-DONATE-1, Ext. 1896

Email: cordblood@bloodworksnw.org

Web: BloodworksNW.org

Facebook: facebook.com/BloodworksNW.cordbloodprogram

 **Bloodworks**
Northwest

Cord Blood Program