



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-187

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid-19 - Cord Blood Collections

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 We are hoping to clarify the situation with private cord blood collections at your hospitals as we have clients due imminently.**

**We have found across other Trusts that the handling of cord blood collections amidst Covid-19 is that the placenta has been passed to the phlebotomist in a sluice room away from the labour ward and no maternal bloods have been taken on the day, so the phlebotomist does not have any contact with mum or baby.**

**Please are you able to advise on your policy at the moment so we can best advise any future clients enquiring**

**A1** The University Hospitals of North Midlands (UHNM) will support blood collection where a family member with a medical condition may benefit from stem cell collection. This will take place following appropriate clinical discussions and consultant to consultant referral.

When there is medical indication for cord blood collection due to a family history of a blood disorder or other relevant condition. We ask the woman to discuss this with her obstetrician (a doctor who specialises in childbirth) who will be able to refer the woman appropriately for arrangement and advice of the process for collection of cord blood for stem cell collection. In these circumstances UHNM will follow the process for collection of cord blood for stem cell collection provided by the NHS Cord Blood bank.

UHNM align to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and Royal College of Midwives (RCM) who support the Human Tissue Authority's (HTA) Licensing Framework and Quality & Safety Regulations which include the arrangements for the collection and storage of cord blood.

This means, only individuals who are licensed by the HTA can collect cord blood in a designated area away from the delivery room; this will ensure that national standards are

followed in line with the RCOG and RCM recommendations which state that cord blood collection is undertaken by a skilled technician after the placenta has been delivered.

A number of private companies market their cord blood services through GP surgeries, antenatal clinics and direct contact with the public. These companies charge a fee for the collection of the cord blood and for on-going storage facilities. The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) regulates the collection of cord blood in the UK and any private bank must hold a licence with the HTA. Like many NHS organisations, we are not licensed by the HTA to collect cord blood and therefore we do not offer this service.

The University Hospitals of North Midlands (UHNM) does not under any circumstance support non-medically requested cord blood collection. Routine directed commercial cord blood collection and stem cell storage will not be available or supported at the UHNM.

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

***UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.***

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

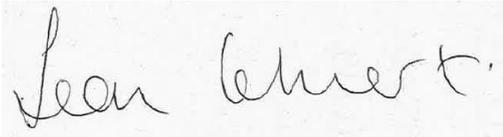
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Jean Lehnert" in a cursive script.

Jean Lehnert  
**Data, Security & Protection Manager**