

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BANKS



	Public Bank	Private Bank
<p>What are the options for using my baby's cord blood?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donate it to Héma-Québec's Public Cord Blood Bank in one of the partner collection centres. • Cord blood that is not donated is usually discarded as medical waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store your child's cord blood, which will be kept for autologous or allogenic donation. • Your child's cord blood will not be made publicly available through registries. • Private banks charge a certain fee to process and store cord blood.
<p>What are the chances that stem cells from my child will be used?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stem cells stored in a public bank are 30 times more likely to be used than when they are stored in a private bank. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Health Canada, there is a one in 20,000 chance (0.005%) and a one in 250,000 chance (0.0004%) that stem cells stored in a private bank will be used.
<p>Why donate or store your baby's cord blood?</p> <p>Is this a form of "insurance" for my child later on?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Héma-Québec is the organization responsible for managing the Public Cord Blood Bank. It stores high quality cord blood for patients who need a stem cell transplant. • Many patients requiring a stem cell transplant must turn to a public cord blood bank to find a compatible donor. • If your child needs a transplant, he or she will have access to all the donations stored in the bank, which increases the chance of finding compatible cord blood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some diseases, such as leukemia, cannot be treated with an autologous stem cell donation, that is with the patient's own stem cells because they are affected by the disease. • Patients have a one in four chance of being compatible with each of their siblings, provided they share both parents. • If your child needs a transplant and no sibling is compatible, his or her doctor will turn to a public bank to find an unrelated source of stem cells.
<p>Who can benefit from banked stem cells?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any patient, in Canada or elsewhere, who needs a stem cell transplant can benefit from products stored in a public bank on condition that compatibility has been established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Units of cord blood stored in a private bank are only accessible to immediate family members. You are advised to check this condition with various banks before signing a contract.
<p>How much does it cost to donate to a public bank?</p> <p>And how much does it cost to store stem cells in a private bank?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cord blood donation to Héma-Québec's Public Cord Blood Bank is free. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs can vary. For example, initial costs of collecting the blood can range from \$900 to \$3,000. The costs of storing the blood can go from \$100 to \$180 per year. • Private banks have the right to charge the services of the doctor (collection and referral). • You are advised to check these costs with the various banks.
<p>Can I donate cord blood if I am not a Canadian citizen or resident of Canada?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes. If you are visiting, you just need to provide your permanent address. • However, you must register before the 36th week of pregnancy and have a blood sample collected within 7 days following the birth of your baby. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies vary from one bank to another. You are advised to check with the various banks.