



Subject: Umbilical Cord Blood Banking*

Effective Date: March 1, 1997

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: The collection and preservation of umbilical cord blood for future use is not reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Collection and storage costs associated with directed banking of umbilical cord blood for medically necessary hematopoietic stem cell transplantation into a covered recipient is reimbursable under plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Testing of previously collected umbilical cord blood for compatibility for transplant into a covered potential recipient is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Objective: To insure proper and consistent reimbursement and to distinguish those aspects of the use of fetal cord blood that is reimbursable from those that are not.

Procedure:

- A. Requests for coverage of collection and preservation of fetal cord blood and/or peripheral blood stem cells for future use will be denied as this procedure is considered investigational.
- B. Requests for testing of fetal cord blood for compatibility for transplant into a covered member are subject to utilization review under the Plan's provisions for bone marrow and/or stem cell transplantation.

References:

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*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.