

back to basics

Annual Report 2016



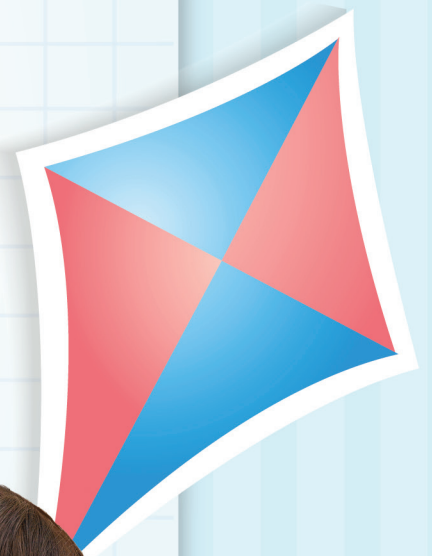
Back To Basics

Through our years of experience and foundation building, we have established our distinguished brand name as a consumer healthcare company dedicated to serving the needs of the mother and child segment. We remain committed to our values to drive sustainable growth for all our stakeholders.

While we continuously grow and expand our scope of products and services, we stay true to our core – which is the very basic reason why we are in this business – that is to serve the needs of mother and child. ‘Back to Basics’, this theme re-enforces our determination and strategies to grow together with our stakeholders, which form the foundation of who and what we are.

Mission

Cordlife Group Limited is a consumer healthcare company that serves the needs of mother and child. We deliver the highest level of quality standards in service and product offerings. We maximise all stakeholders’ value by engaging all employees to enable the Group to achieve its fullest potential.



Firsts of Cordlife



2001

- First private cord blood bank in Singapore.
- First private cord blood bank to adopt multiple compartment cryobag with integral segments in Singapore.

2002

- First in Singapore to release a privately banked cord blood unit to support a sibling transplant for the treatment of leukaemia.

2005

- First cord blood bank to be AABB accredited in Southeast Asia.
- First Singapore-based private cord blood bank to set up a cord blood processing and storage facility in Hong Kong.

2007

- First in Indonesia and India to set up cord blood processing and storage facilities.

2008

- First in Southeast Asia to invest in Sepax, a fully automated processing technology to recover more cells from cord blood.

2009

- Enabled the first-ever stem cell infusion for cerebral palsy treatment in Singapore with leading neurosurgeon Dr Keith Goh.

2010

- First in the Philippines to set up cord blood processing and storage facility.

2012

- First cord blood bank in Singapore to be listed on the Mainboard of SGX-ST.

2013

- First cord blood bank in Singapore to receive the Most Transparent Company Award (Retail & Household Category) from Securities Investors Association (Singapore) Choice Awards.
- First in Asia to upgrade to Sepax 2, an improved version of Sepax.
- First cord blood bank in Singapore and the Philippines to launch cord lining banking services.

2014

- First company in Hong Kong, Indonesia and the Philippines to offer urine-based newborn metabolic screening services.

2015

- First in Southeast Asia to be dual-accredited by world-class quality standards: AABB and FACT-Netcord.
- First in Singapore to win Frost & Sullivan Singapore Stem Cell Company of the Year Award.
- First Cord Blood Bank to be named as one of the Best "Under A Billion" Companies by Forbes Asia.

Products and Services Spotlight: Cord Lining Banking

Cord Lining Banking and Cord Tissue Banking: Giving More Medical Options for Families

Umbilical cord is the connecting cord from the developing embryo or foetus to the placenta, which allows blood to carry oxygen and nutrition to the baby in the womb. Traditionally, even after private banking of cord blood was made commercially available, the umbilical cord was discarded along with the placenta after the birth of a newborn. In recent years, however, the umbilical cord has been discovered to contain high concentration of stem cells, making it a valuable source of cells for cellular therapy and regenerative medicine.

Other than containing cord blood, the umbilical cord is made up of Wharton's jelly, umbilical arteries and an umbilical vein. These components are protected by a sheet-like membrane known as cord lining. While Wharton's jelly only contains one type of stem cells known as Mesenchymal stem cells ("MSCs"), cord lining contains two types of stem cells including MSCs and Epithelial stem cells ("EpSCs"). MSCs and EpSCs are currently being evaluated in more than 400 clinical trials for the treatment of medical conditions that have limited treatment options today including heart disease, stroke, spinal cord injury, corneal repair as well as wound healing such as burns and diabetic ulcers.

Cord lining banking is made available to all existing and prospective clients of Cordlife in Asia through an exclusive licensing agreement with a subsidiary of CRC. CRC is founded by a team of Singapore experts including an award-winning doctor and a scientist from Singapore who both made significant inroads in the world with their discovery of stem cells from cord lining. This revolutionary discovery subsequently led the team to receiving patent protection in 39 territories around the world. These patents prohibit other companies from harvesting stem cells from cord lining.

Cordlife also offers cord tissue banking as an alternative to cord lining banking. Cord tissue banking essentially is the banking of Wharton's jelly as a lower cost option to cater to the mass audience.



Products and Services Spotlight: Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing



Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing: Screening for foetal chromosomal abnormalities

Cordlife works with INEX, a Singapore company to distribute its IGENE non-invasive prenatal testing service ("NIPT"). NIPT is a relatively new type of screening test done during pregnancy that analyses foetal DNA in the mother's blood for foetal chromosomal abnormalities including Down Syndrome, Edwards Syndrome and Patau Syndrome. This service has superior clinical performance and has higher accuracy rate than NIPT offered by other service providers.

Although the chance of having a baby chromosomal abnormality increases with age, having an affected foetus may also happen to mothers of any age. The incidence of chromosomal abnormalities, excluding sex chromosomal aneuploidies, can be as high as one in 160 live births.³ This simple blood test means lesser anxiety for an expectant mother, father and the whole family. The availability of NIPT has significantly reduced the number of invasive diagnostic tests, such as amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling, which carry a risk of miscarriage of about 1 in 100.⁴

³ Jiang F, et al. BMC Medical Genomics, 2012 Dec;5:57. doi:10.1186/1755-8794-5-57

⁴ Amniocentesis. Patient Info. goo.gl/1pUX78. Accessed on Aug 29, 2016

Products and Services Spotlight:

Non-Invasive Newborn Metabolic Screening



Metascreen: a Comprehensive Metabolic Screening Test for Newborn Babies

Metascreen is a marketing trademark of Cordlife (Hong Kong) Limited and is a comprehensive non-invasive metabolic screening test for newborn babies. About 1 in every 1,250 babies is expected to be born with a metabolic disorder.⁵ Babies with such disorders lack enzymes to maintain normal metabolic functions, resulting in a build-up of toxic substances or deficiency of critical substances. Though rare, if left untreated, metabolic disorders can cause serious developmental issues and lifelong complications such as mental retardation, physical disability and in some instances, death.

Metascreen is a highly accurate newborn screening test, as it combines the use of US FDA approved Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry coupled with proprietary Planar Diagnostic Tool to detect up to 106 metabolic disorders. Unlike traditional newborn metabolic screening tests that use blood as test specimens, Metascreen utilises urine specimens for testing. In metabolic biochemistry, the human body has complex homeostatic mechanisms, which rapidly excrete redundant or toxic compounds that exceed the body's desired levels. These compounds do not increase significantly in blood but are excreted in large amounts into urine. This makes urine an effective test specimen for the detection of metabolic disorders.

⁵ This cumulative incidence rate is based on Meta100+ panel of metabolic disorders.

Products and Services Spotlight:

Eyescreen

Eyescreen: Safeguarding your Child's Window to the World

Singapore is said to be the myopia capital of the world. According to the latest Singapore Health Promotion Board figures released in 2011, about 16% of preschool children are short-sighted, a 7% increase from 2009.⁶ Studies also showed that approximately 33% of the five-year-olds in Singapore are myopic and the percentage increases to 80% in 18-year-olds.

Eyescreen is a marketing trademark of Cordlife Technologies Pte. Ltd. and is a safe and non-invasive paediatric eye screening. The test can detect up to 11 eye conditions such as Myopia (short-sightedness), Strabismus (crossed eyes) and Amblyopia (lazy eye) in children as early as 6 months to 6 years old. The service, administered by a certified optometrist and endorsed by a Senior Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmologist, is currently available at the Cordlife's flagship store in Singapore at Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital. As the results from Eyescreen are almost available instantaneously, effective treatment for children identified with eye problems can be administered early. This meets the recommendation from the American Academy of Paediatrics that considered timely vision screening as being essential in infancy and childhood for the early detection and treatment of eye problems.



⁶ Astigmatism 'common' in kids with vision problems, Saturday (Oct 25, 2014). The Straits Times

Accreditations and Certifications

AABB



FACT



Good Distribution Practice for Medical Device

Singapore



ISO 9001:2008

AABB



ISO 9001:2008

Hong Kong



ISO 9001:2008

AABB



ISO 9001:2008

Indonesia

India

College of American Pathologists



Philippines

ISO 15189

Malaysia



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