# Cord blood for research into GBS protection

**Group B Streptococcus (GBS) is a major cause of sepsis and meningitis in newborns and can cause premature births and stillbirths as well as infections in pregnant women. It is normally carried in in the vagina and gut and may cause harm when it passes from mother to baby around the time of birth. It is estimated that GBS claims around 150,000 babies' lives a year worldwide.**

Photography - JBryson

**[LOCAL NHS TRUST]** is participating in a research study of women's natural immunity against GBS. We want to find out how much antibody a woman needs in her blood to protect her baby from getting GBS. This will help in developing a vaccine.

To do this, we would like to collect a small sample of blood from the cord after your baby has been born. There is no risk to you or your baby in doing this. Because this needs to be done just after delivering the baby, we will be using a **verbal consent** approach to collect and store cord blood samples. That means we will not ask for your written consent but instead, the midwife will ask for your verbal consent, either during or after labour.

**Any woman who does not want to give these samples can refuse at any time and no samples will be taken. Also, if you change your mind later, the samples collected can be discarded.**

The cord blood sample will be stored in this hospital and kept for up to 6 months. If your baby develops an infection, the local research team in this hospital will ask for your written consent to send the sample to the central research team at St George's, University of London to measure antibodies in it. They may also do this if your swab is positive in pregnancy. Otherwise, the samples will be thrown away at 6 months.

We would also like to use your NHS number to access routinely collected NHS data. This is so we can better understand the types of women from whom these samples have come, for example their average age. The NHS numbers will only be accessible to the local research team and will not be shared with the central team at SGUL. The GBS3 team at the University of Nottingham will link the NHS numbers to routine national healthcare databases that keep track of all births in the UK. No one other than the research teams will know you or your baby's details.

**Contact your research team on [INSERT NUMBER] for more information and visit our website:**

**https://www.gbsatstgeorges.co.uk/igbs3**