

CHAPTER 240

(Senate Bill 197)

AN ACT concerning

**Hospitals Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Umbilical Cord Blood
- Blood Donation - Educational Materials**

FOR the purpose of requiring each hospital to offer pregnant patients the option of donating certain umbilical cord blood to a certain cord blood bank with a certain exception; prohibiting the requirement for collection of cord blood by certain hospitals and certain hospital employees directly affiliated with a bona fide religious denomination with certain religious beliefs relating to the transfer of human blood the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with certain entities, to develop educational materials concerning the donation of umbilical cord blood; requiring certain obstetricians and hospitals to distribute certain educational materials to certain patients; and generally relating to the distribution of educational materials concerning the donation of umbilical cord blood through hospitals.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General

Section 19-308.7

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

19-308.7.

(a) Unless it is medically inadvisable, each hospital shall ~~allow~~ OFFER a pregnant patient ~~to arrange for the donation of~~ THE OPTION OF DONATING the blood extracted from the umbilical cord of the patient's newborn child to a certified public cord blood bank.

(b) A patient who agrees to donate cord blood to a public cord blood bank may not be charged for the costs of collecting, storing, or transporting the cord blood.

(c) A hospital is not required to collect cord blood if in the professional judgment of a licensed physician the collection of the cord blood would threaten the health of the mother or newborn child.

(d) ~~ANY~~ hospital or hospital employee, including a physician, nurse, or other medical staff, ~~THAT IS DIRECTLY AFFILIATED WITH A BONA FIDE RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION THAT INCLUDES, AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ITS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES, THE TENET THAT BLOOD TRANSFER IS CONTRARY TO THE MORAL PRINCIPLES THAT THE DENOMINATION CONSIDERS TO BE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF~~