

Implementing A Public Cord Blood Donation Program at BIDMC

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Introduction/Problem

Many people are in need of a bone marrow transplant to treat diseases such as lymphoma or leukemia, and must find a compatible donor. 70% of patients needing transplant will require an unrelated matched donor. Umbilical cord blood, the blood that remains in a baby's umbilical cord after delivery contains stem cells that can be used for bone marrow transplant. Patients who are unable to find a match in their families or communities may find a match with cord blood. Cord blood is easy to collect, is often readily available to patients in need and requires less compatibility between donor and recipient.

Public banks accept donated cord blood from generous families, making the resource available to all. Understanding the benefit to individuals and the public at large BIDMC OB/GYN felt very strongly that patients should be given the opportunity to donate cord blood and potentially help another.

Aim/Goal

Establish an umbilical cord blood donation program at BIDMC, offering families the opportunity to donate their baby's cord blood to a public bank.

Create awareness of cord blood donation with education of obstetric providers, patients and clinical staff, with office and BIDMC website resources. Create and implement a system for recruitment and consent of donors and collection and donation of cord blood involving Ob-GYN providers and the Labor and Delivery unit.

Provide administrative time of nursing staff to dedicate resources and time towards cord blood program.

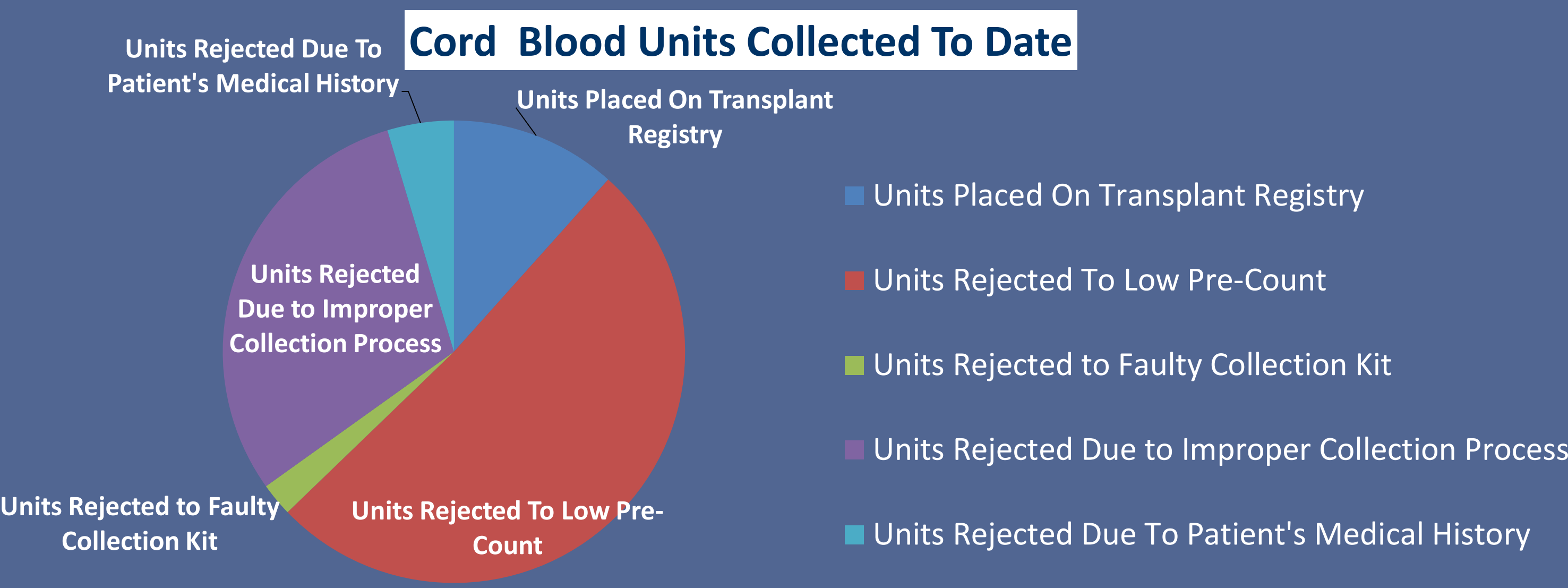
The Team

- Mary M. Herlihy, MD Co-Cord Blood Coordinator
 - Precious Malloy, LPN Co-Cord Blood Coordinator
- Kristina Hunt, BSN
 - Riki Mackillop , Administrative Manager

The Interventions

- Multiple meetings with public bank partner, *Cord for Life* to understand cord blood collection, patient recruitment/consent and needed resources.
- Identified operational needs for supply storage in office and on Labor an Delivery unit, as well as patient recruitment materials in office and on website.
- Development of a system implementing patient education and consent process into routine prenatal care.
- Developed detailed training process for Labor and Delivery staff including protocols, process, guides and training via powerpoint, video and demonstration.

Results/Progress to Date



Lessons Learned

- Education increased understanding of cord blood value for treatment and increased awareness of donation opportunity, enhancing donations.
- Input and involvement of clinical staff on Labor and Delivery and in offices is necessary to effectively implement this process into clinical practice.

Next Steps

- Continued assessment of best practice to improve implementation into Labor and Delivery process.
- Continue education and awareness efforts in clinical practices and via website.
- Improved identification of patients intending to donate when come to Labor and Delivery.
- Explore opportunities to reach non English speaking populations.
- Coordinate cord blood recruitment and collection process with other research activities on Labor and Delivery

For more information, contact:
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