



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Cordlife Singapore responds to announcement by Ministry of Health**

**Singapore, 30 November 2023:** Cordlife Group Limited (“CGL”) has today announced its response to the result of an investigation by the Ministry of Health of Singapore (“MOH”) into Cordlife’s cord blood banking facility in Singapore (“Cordlife Singapore”).

The investigation identified seven affected cord blood unit (“CBU”) storage tanks in Singapore, housing CBUs from Cordlife clients mainly based in Singapore. These tanks were found to have gone outside of their normal temperature range.

Since this discovery, Cordlife Singapore has completed testing of donated cord blood samples stored within one of the affected tanks. This tank contains 2.66% of all CBUs stored by Cordlife Singapore as per our current records.

Unfortunately, the assessment carried out by MOH has concluded that these CBUs are unlikely to be suitable for stem cell transplant purposes at this point. However, Cordlife Singapore will continue to store these affected CBUs for clients, as they may still be valuable in light of developments in the field of cell and gene therapy.

For the other six tanks where irregular temperature readings were detected, investigations with the Ministry of Health are presently ongoing. As a further measure of quality control, Cordlife Singapore will voluntarily initiate viability testing of donated cord blood samples stored in all other unaffected tanks.

Cordlife is in the process of contacting all of Cordlife Singapore’s clients to inform them of the status of their cord blood units or to outline the ongoing testing.

Under Cordlife’s standard service agreement with all clients, if, in the opinion of their healthcare provider, it is subsequently determined that the cord blood cannot be successfully used for an approved cord blood transplant, Cordlife will make every effort to find a suitable replacement cord blood for their child.

In addition to these findings, MOH has issued a notice to Cordlife Singapore of an up to six-month suspension of collection, testing, processing and/or storing of any new cord blood, human tissues, or provide any new types of tests to patients. This suspension will begin within two weeks of this notice.

#### **Statement from Ms. Tan Poh Lan, Group Chief Executive Officer, CGL:**

*“Cordlife Singapore detected irregular temperature readings in seven of our Singapore-based cryogenic storage tanks. These tanks were found to have gone outside of their normal temperature range.*

*“In our 22 years of storing cord blood in Singapore and across the region, this is the only time that such incidents have happened. We recognise that we have fallen short of the high standards that we hold ourselves to, and we sincerely apologise to our clients and will work diligently to regain their trust.*

*“We have undertaken the testing of the donated samples for one tank. Unfortunately, the assessment carried out by MOH has concluded that these cord blood units are unlikely to be suitable for stem cell transplant purposes at this point. However, Cordlife Singapore will continue to store these affected cord blood units for clients, as they still may be valuable in light of developments in the field of cell and gene therapy.*



*Investigations are still ongoing for the other six tanks where irregular temperature readings were detected and we will provide more updates to our clients soon.*

*"We are in the process of contacting all of Cordlife Singapore's clients to inform them of the status of their cord blood units or to outline the ongoing testing. As a further measure of quality control, Cordlife Singapore will voluntarily initiate testing of donated cord blood samples stored in all other unaffected tanks.*

*"We are working closely with Singapore's Ministry of Health to strengthen our laboratory processes, procedures and staff training to prevent this from happening again."*

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**For journalists only:**

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ABOUT CORDLIFE GROUP LIMITED Cordlife Group Limited ("Cordlife", together with its subsidiaries, the "Group"), founded in 2001, is a leading company dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of mother and child. Listed on the Mainboard of the Singapore Exchange since 2012, the Group is a pioneer in private cord blood banking in Asia. Cordlife operates Asia's largest network of cord blood banks. With full stem cell banking facilities in six key markets, Cordlife is an industry leader in Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and the Philippines and one of the top three market leaders in India and Malaysia. Through its majority-owned subsidiary in Malaysia, Stemlife Berhad, Cordlife has an indirect stake in Thailand's largest private cord blood bank, Thai Stemlife. In addition to cord blood, cord lining, and cord tissue banking, Cordlife offers families a comprehensive suite of diagnostic services, including non-invasive prenatal testing, paediatric vision screening, and newborn metabolic screening. Two of Cordlife's primary focus areas are providing reliable quality and being customer-centric. All of the Group's facilities are accredited by the Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies ("AABB"), an organisation dedicated to its mission of improving lives by making transfusion medicine and biotherapies safe, available, and effective worldwide. Furthermore, Cordlife Singapore and Healthbaby Hong Kong are the only two private cord blood banks in Asia and five worldwide to be accredited by both the AABB and the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy ("FACT"), another world-class accreditation body for cord blood banks worldwide. In the area of clinical diagnostics, Cordlife India and Healthbaby Hong Kong are both accredited by the College of American Pathologists ("CAP"). Healthbaby Hong Kong is the world's only private cord blood bank to be accredited by three international standard-setting bodies, and Cordlife India is one of only two medical laboratories in West Bengal to be accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories ("NABL") and CAP. These quality achievements reinforce the Group's commitment to providing reliable healthcare solutions through innovation and technological advancement. For more information, visit <http://cordlife.listedcompany.com>.



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