

Placenta storage notes for midwives, doulas and birth teams in hospitals

**** This mother wishes to keep her placenta following the birth of her baby ****

- The family will provide a clean container, water-tight food bag (zip-lock/re-sealable), a cool bag and ice packs to store the placenta after the baby is born.
- To prevent contamination, please ensure that the placenta is birthed onto a clean surface, inco pad or towel.
- Before inspecting the placenta please your wash your hands and wear new disposable gloves to prevent contamination.
- After inspection, please place the placenta immediately into the zip-lock/re-sealable food bag and then into the lidded container, even if it's still attached to the baby.
- Please do not put gauze, utensils or any other foreign objects into the placenta container.
- For Caesarean births, if possible bring the container into theatre or place placenta into a yellow biohazard bag.
- Take note if meconium is present in the amniotic fluid. If the placenta is heavily meconium stained, adding saline solution to the container will help prevent growth of bacteria.
- Store placenta container inside cooler box/bag with ice packs wrapped close to the container.
- Client to contact placenta specialist within 3 hours after birth to arrange collection.
- Alternatively a family member or birthing partner should take the placenta home (sealed in the container and inside the cool bag) for refrigeration within 6 hours.

**Any queries please call Helen Morgan 07500 068097
Thank you!**