



Advisory Council on Blood Stem Cell Transplantation (ACBSCT)

National Cord Blood Inventory Cord Blood Bank, Accreditation Specifications

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Background

- Public Law 109-129, as amended by P.L 111-264, mandates that "the Secretary shall, through a public process, recognize one or more accreditation entities for the accreditation of cord blood banks." The Act further requires that NCBI banks must be accredited by the organization(s) so recognized.
- Prior to formation of the ACBSCT, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) gave interim recognition to AABB and FACT for initial NCBI competitions. Therefore, all NCBI banks are currently accredited by AABB or FACT, or both. This interim decision was followed by a recognition process that allowed for input by the Advisory Council and the public. AABB and FACT are the only organizations accrediting cord blood banks in the United States.

Background (cont'd)

- In January 2008, HRSA charged the Advisory Council to formulate a plan for developing recommendations with regard to accreditation and the Advisory Council formed an Accreditation Work Group.
- In May 2009, the ACBSCT recommended that the Secretary recognize both the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) and the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) as Accreditation Organizations for the National Cord Blood Inventory (NCBI). Both organizations are expected to adhere to the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Specifications for Accreditation Organizations, and their continued recognition is based on ongoing adherence to HRSA Specifications. ACBSCT will review, three years from the time of the recognition decision by the Secretary, HRSA's experience with the Accreditation Organizations with regard to meeting the HRSA Specifications.

Questions?