



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Updated Statement (12/17/2010)

The Caitlin Raymond International Registry (CRIR) is an internationally and FDA accredited pioneer in the establishment of procedures and practices for stem cell donor search, is the oldest coordinating center for bone marrow, peripheral blood stem cell and placental cord unit search in the United States and the eleventh largest registry in the world.

CRIR is a nonprofit organization and a subsidiary of UMass Memorial Health Care, Inc.

To date the CRIR has recruited more than 185,000 donors throughout New England. Each donor's information may be matched to a patient in need of these life saving cells. CRIR also provides donor search services to more than 650 patients who need a stem cell transplant each month.

CRIR actively recruits potential donors through public donor drives organized by patient's families. It also staffs public kiosks located at shopping centers, entertainment and sporting events, hospitals and other public spaces, as well as community and patient-specific drives.

At these donor drives, every potential donor is provided with a donor consent form that explains that his or her insurance company may be billed for the laboratory testing that is necessary for a donor to be included in the registry. If a donor has no health insurance, the testing is done at no cost to the donor. If after being informed of the process a potential donor consents by signing the consent form, a mouth swab is taken by CRIR personnel.

As part of the donor recruitment effort, UMass Memorial has used models to help acquaint the public on how they can contribute to this lifesaving effort before introducing a prospective donor to a member of the Caitlin Raymond staff. While the important work of recruiting bone marrow donors by CRIR will continue at

sites other than those in New Hampshire, UMass Memorial has already discontinued the use of the models.

CRIR does not charge donors for its services. Reimbursement for the laboratory services necessary for the assessment of donor samples is sought by the Medical Center. Specifically, the Medical Center charges the health insurance companies of voluntary donors who are covered by health insurance. As required by law, UMass Memorial charges all insurance companies the same amount for donor testing. The amount UMass Memorial receives for each test, however, is based on the negotiated rate that is memorialized in the contract in place between the respective insurer and UMass Memorial.

UMass Memorial has reviewed its billing practices for this test and confirmed to its best knowledge that it is appropriately paid based on the negotiated rate in the contract between the respective insurance company and UMass Memorial.

We should not lose sight of the purpose of the Caitlin Raymond International Registry – one of the largest and most respected blood donor banks—is to find donor matches that save lives. There are currently 4,000 patients waiting for matches and it takes tens of thousands of donors to find the right match. And the majority of the public is unaware of the potential each of us has to save a life with a blood test.

UMass Memorial Health Care and the CRIR have voluntarily suspended donor recruitment activities by CRIR in the state of New Hampshire. This allows us the opportunity to address the recent questions and concerns raised by various parties. We are cooperating with the New Hampshire and Massachusetts Attorneys General Offices and are confident that we will be able to address and satisfy their concerns.