



## **Media Release**

# **Cordlife Advances Preventive Healthcare in Singapore with The Launch of New Genetic Testing Service**

- Cordlife to offer US-based PlumCare™ DNA Advisor, marketed under the Genscreen® brand, to identify gene variants associated with an increased risk of developing inherited conditions, such as breast, ovarian and colon rectal cancer, as well as heart diseases.
- Genscreen® - PlumCare™ DNA Advisor analyses the family's DNA collected from saliva specimens to identify possible disease-causing genetic mutations that can be passed on by parents to children.
- Cordlife will launch in Singapore as a springboard to widely distribute this new Genscreen® service throughout Asia, in a push to further expand and diversify the Company's growing revenue base.

**SINGAPORE, 6 April 2018** – Cordlife Group Limited (“**Cordlife**”, and together with its subsidiaries, the “**Group**”), today announced the much awaited launch in Singapore of US-based PlumCare™ DNA Advisor, a genetic testing service offered under Genscreen® - a genetic screening brand by Cordlife - to help families detect possible disease-causing genetic mutations associated with common hereditary conditions, including certain cancers and heart diseases.

The new offering comes at a time when cancer and heart conditions remain the leading causes of death in the country and around the region. The National Registry of Diseases Office estimates that 1 in every 4 to 5 people will develop cancer in their lifetime, and that those with genetic syndromes are at greater risk.

A recent survey conducted by Cordlife found that 80% of the parents surveyed in Singapore welcome the idea of genetic testing. “Awareness of specific genetic mutations can enable families to make more informed health choices and even take proactive preventive measures, when and where applicable,” said Michael Weiss, Group CEO of Cordlife Group Limited. “We believe this new service will empower families to better manage health risks for conditions they may be predisposed to.”

Recent health scares involving celebrities have also increased awareness. The number of women going for genetic testing reportedly spiked due to what has been described as the ‘Angelina Jolie effect’ after the Hollywood actress revealed in 2013 that she was at risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer because of a gene mutation. More recently, the famous Jonas brothers were also reported to have genetic testing done after their father Kevin Jonas Sr. was diagnosed with stage II colon cancer.



Genscreen® - PlumCare™ DNA Advisor was developed by Dr Petros Tsipouras, a specialist in clinical genetics and an adjunct professor at the Yale University School of Medicine, and Dr Paul Billings, a specialist in genomic medicine. The service is also supported by experts in science and medical bioinformatics from Harvard and Yale universities. All analyses will be carried out by US-based laboratories that are certified by the College of American Pathologists ("CAP"), one of the most highly recognised standards for clinical laboratory testing on humans. Genetic counselling will be provided by Human Genetics Society of Australasia ("HGSA") licensed genetic counsellors based in Asia.

"New Cordlife is blazing new trails in diagnostics in Asia," Mr. Weiss remarked. "We will continue to accelerate growth through more international collaborations in diagnostics, while deepening penetration levels for cord blood and cord lining banking services in our key markets. We have boots on the ground throughout Southeast Asia and will leverage our local sales teams to capitalise on the extraordinary growth potential in the region."

Other diagnostics services offered by Cordlife, which operates in eight markets in Asia, include non-invasive prenatal testing, urine-based metabolic screening for newborns, and paediatric vision screening for children aged six months to six years.

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#### **About Cordlife Group Limited (Bloomberg: CLGL; Reuters: [CORD.SI](#))**

Incorporated in 2001, Cordlife Group Limited ("Cordlife", together with its subsidiaries, the "Group") is a consumer healthcare company and one of the leading providers of cord blood as well as cord lining banking services in Asia. Cordlife has been listed on the mainboard of Singapore Exchange (SGX: P8A) since March 2012.

Cordlife owns the largest network of cord blood banks in Asia with full stem cell processing and storage facilities in six key markets namely Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Malaysia and the Philippines. In Singapore, Philippines and Indonesia, Cordlife operates the largest<sup>1</sup> private cord blood banks; and is amongst the top three market leaders in India and Malaysia. In January 2018, Cordlife became the market leader in Hong Kong with the acquisition of the largest

<sup>1</sup> Source : Deloitte & Touche Financial Advisory Services Limited report, 10 April 2013



private cord blood bank in the country, HealthBaby Biotech (Hong Kong) Co., Limited. Through its majority owned subsidiary, Stemlife Berhad in Malaysia, Cordlife controls indirect stake in Thailand's largest private cord blood bank, Thai Stemlife. Cordlife is also the first Singapore private cord blood bank to provide cord blood and cord lining banking services in Myanmar and Vietnam.

Beyond cord blood and cord lining banking, Cordlife offers a comprehensive suite of diagnostics services for the mother and child segment including urine-based newborn metabolic screening, non-invasive prenatal testing, paediatric vision screening and other genetic screening services.

The Group's stem cell processing and storage facilities in Singapore, Hong Kong, India and the Philippines are accredited by AABB, the organisation behind the world's gold standard for cord blood banking. Over and above, Cordlife Singapore is accredited by FACT-Netcord, another world-class accreditation body for cord blood banks globally. This makes Cordlife Singapore one of just six private cord blood banks in the world to be accredited by both AABB and FACT-Netcord simultaneously. The Group's majority-owned Hong Kong Screening Centre and Cordlife India also attained accreditation from the College of American Pathologists ("CAP") for meeting the highest industry standards for laboratory services. These quality achievements underpin the Group's commitment to providing the highest service quality for clients. For more information, visit <http://cordlife.listedcompany.com>

### **About PlumCare™**

PlumCare™ was created for families by two eminent clinical geneticists, Dr. Paul Billings and Dr. Petros Tsipouras. PlumCare™ DNA Advisor provides access to the progress in genetics through DNA testing, analysis, insights, and learnings from world-class research. The service combines the simplicity of saliva-based whole exome DNA testing, data from all participating family members (family trios or more), family medical history, external research and analysis. With a subscription, the service provides ongoing monitoring of scientific advances with annual reports and notifications. The insights, advice and access to local specialists help families to manage unexpected or chronic illnesses and their well-being across generations for a lifetime. Learn more at [www.plumcarehealth.com](http://www.plumcarehealth.com).