



Media Release

Cordlife Group's Subsidiary, HealthBaby Hong Kong, Offers Non-Invasive Newborn Metabolic Screening

- HealthBaby Hong Kong has started to offer Metascreen, a non-invasive and effective newborn urine test specially designed to screen more than 100 inherited metabolic disorders, without causing any harm to babies.
- Tested on US-FDA approved Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry platform from Japan, the testing of the specimens is performed by CAP-accredited Hong Kong Screening Centre, a majority-owned subsidiary of Cordlife Group.

SINGAPORE, 2 May 2018 – Cordlife Group Limited (“**Cordlife**” and together with its subsidiaries, the “**Group**”) announced today that its wholly-owned HealthBaby Biotech (Hong Kong) Co Limited (“**HealthBaby**”), the cord blood banking market leader in Hong Kong, has launched Metascreen, a newborn metabolic screening service to detect over 100 inherited metabolic disorders, much more than conventional newborn metabolic screening tests available in Hong Kong today.

“The launch of Metascreen by HealthBaby enables us to reach an even wider audience in Hong Kong. This will give more parents the opportunity to take proactive steps in enabling early detection, which can help avoid lifelong and potentially fatal effects of inborn errors of metabolism,” said Mr Michael Weiss, Group CEO and Executive Director of Cordlife.

Babies with metabolic disorders lack certain enzymes to maintain normal metabolic functions. This results in a build-up of toxic substances or deficiency of critical substances. If left untreated, metabolic disorders can cause serious lifelong developmental issues such as mental retardation and physical disability. Early-stage detection enables doctors to treat these metabolic disorders timely through early intervention and prevent long-term detrimental effects to the baby’s health.

Metascreen uses urine – instead of blood – as a test specimen, which avoids the need to perform painful heel prick on babies. Besides the non-invasiveness, metabolites tend to accumulate in urine first. The human body rapidly excretes redundant or toxic compounds that exceed desired levels. These compounds do not increase significantly in blood but are excreted in large amounts into urine, making it a highly effective test specimen. Blood accumulation of these toxic substances in general will only appear once the kidney clearance capacity is exceeded.

Urine specimens taken from babies 48 hours after birth and up to six months old, will be tested using an US-FDA approved Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry platform from Japan at the CAP-accredited laboratory of Hong Kong Screening Centre, another subsidiary of Cordlife. Coupled with in-house Planar Diagnostics Tool, comprising of international and local database of normal samples, Metascreen can provide highly specific and definite results as it analyses up



to four analyte profiles, to detect a single metabolic disorder. This helps to reduce false positive rates compared to conventional newborn metabolic screening, which usually uses only one or two analyte profiles.

The rollout of Metascreen via HealthBaby is the Group's latest move to expand its diagnostics business. "New Cordlife is all about leveraging our extensive, multi-national platform to access large pockets of demand for all new offerings," Mr. Weiss added. "We will continue to add innovative new services that can, to the greatest extent possible, be 'plugged in and played' across the entire system." Earlier this month, Cordlife launched in Singapore the PlumCare™ DNA Advisor, a whole exome sequencing test to help families identify possible disease-causing genetic variants associated with common hereditary conditions like heart ailments and breast cancer.

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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, the Philippines and Indonesia, Cordlife operates the largest¹ private cord blood banks. It 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 private cord blood bank there, HealthBaby Biotech (Hong Kong) Co., Limited. Through its majority owned subsidiary, Stemlife Berhad in Malaysia, Cordlife controls an 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.

¹ Source : Deloitte & Touche Financial Advisory Services Limited report, 10 April 2013



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. Cordlife Singapore is also 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 HealthBaby Biotech (Hong Kong) Co Limited

Founded in 2006, HealthBaby Biotech (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd. is a leading private stem cell bank in Hong Kong. HealthBaby is Hong Kong's most accredited cord blood laboratory (including AABB, CAP, and HOKLAS accreditation) and the most recommended by Hong Kong O&G doctors² and entrusted by parents for 9 consecutive years³. HealthBaby offers comprehensive umbilical cord blood and umbilical cord tissue storage service. HealthBaby has attained an exclusive Hong Kong patent for the processing of whole cord tissue as well as processing, storage and culture technologies to enhance the quantity and viability of tissue cells after thawing. In 2018, HealthBaby becomes a fully-owned subsidiary of a SGX-listed company with solid foothold in Asia covering Singapore, China, Hong Kong, Macau, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia. To learn more about HealthBaby, visit <http://www.healthbaby.hk/en-hk/>

² Source: IMS 2010 Cord Blood Bank Market Research in Hong Kong (with Private O&G physicians)

³ Source: Ipsos Healthcare 2009-2017 Cord Blood Bank Survey