Cordlife Group Limited

1 Yishun Industrial Street 1 • A'Posh Bizhub • #06-01/09 • Singapore 768160

Phone (65) 6238 0808 • Fax (65) 6238 1108

Find Out More • info@cordlife.com • For Cordlife Parents • customercare@cordlife.com

Company Registration Number: 200102883E



# **Media Release**

# **Cordlife Launches Genetic Testing Service in the Philippines** to Help Families Prevent and Manage Hereditary Conditions

- Cordlife has targeted the Philippines as its second Asian market to launch US-based PlumCare<sup>™</sup> DNA Advisor, marketed under the Genscreen<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> PlumCare<sup>™</sup> DNA Advisor can provide genomic insights for a family with more than 250 health conditions for children and over 25 conditions for adults. Genetic mutations increase the risk of developing certain cancers, with breast and prostate cancer being some of the most common in the Philippines.
- Launching in the Philippines provides yet another example of how Cordlife continues to exploit its multi-national platform to access demand and expand revenue for innovative new services.

MANILA,17 May 2018 – Cordlife Group Limited ("Cordlife", and together with its subsidiaries, the "Group") said today its subsidiary, Cordlife Medical Phils. Inc ("Cordlife Philippines"), has officially launched PlumCare™ DNA Advisor to help families in the Philippines detect and manage genetic mutations associated with hereditary conditions like certain cancers and heart diseases. Cordlife Philippines is the second country in Asia to offer this service, after the Group rolled out the service in Singapore last month under its DNA diagnostics brand, Genscreen®.

"Cancer is one of the top causes of death in Southeast Asia," remarked Michael Weiss, Group CEO of Cordlife. "Genetic mutations increase the risk of developing certain cancers, with breast and prostate cancer being some of the most common in the Philippines. We are dedicated to helping Filipino families make more informed health and lifestyle choices, and hope that our new genetic screening service will empower them to better manage their health and minimise the risk of hereditary conditions." According to literature research, public awareness focusing on driving preventive care is also on the rise, with over 80% of Filipino parents surveyed saying they would welcome genetic screening to prevent or manage potential ailments.

Genscreen® - PlumCare™ DNA Advisor analyses DNA from saliva specimens, using whole exome sequencing to detect potential disease-causing variants in the genes. The service provides insights into more than 250 health conditions for children and over 30 for adults.

All testing for Genscreen<sup>®</sup> - PlumCare<sup>™</sup> DNA Advisor is performed in US-based laboratories accredited by the College of American Pathologists, a globally recognised standard for clinical

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laboratory testing on humans. Genetic counselling is provided by professionals licensed by the Human Genetics Society of Australasia ("HGSA").

Mr Michael Arnonobal, CEO of Cordlife Medical Philippines said: "Our commitment to the highest quality standards is our assurance to our clients. They can be confident that their children's precious stem cells are secure for potentially life-saving use in the future. It is also this dedication to the Filipino family's future health that is the driving force behind, Genscreen®, Cordlife's genetic testing service arm."

Mr Weiss added: "We have been in the Philippines for eight years and it remains an important growth market for us. Taking offerings like PlumCare DNA Advisor to the Philippines, and beyond, is core to New Cordlife's strategy of maximizing the demand creation potential of our geographically expansive installed base of operations."

The PlumCare<sup>™</sup> DNA Advisor was developed by Dr Petros Tsipouras, a clinical genetics specialist and adjunct professor at Yale University School of Medicine, and Dr Paul Billings, a genomic medicine specialist. The service is supported by science and medical informatics experts from Harvard and Yale Universities.

The Group, which operates in eight Asian markets, offers a range of other diagnostics services including 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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### **Media & Investor Contact Information**

WeR1 Consultants Pte Ltd 3 Phillip Street, #12-01, Royal Group Building Singapore 048693 Tel: (65) 6737 4844

Frankie Ho – frankieho@wer1.net Grace Yew – graceyew@wer1.net

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 health 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

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private cord blood banks; and is amongst the top three market leaders in India and Malaysia. By January 2018, Cordlife became the market leader in Hong Kong with the acquisition of the largest 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. Quality and customer focus are amongst some of the cornerstones of Cordlife. The Group's stem cell processing and storage facilities in Singapore, Hong Kong, India, the Philippines and Malaysia are accredited by AABB, the organisation behind the world's gold standard for cord blood banking. In addition, 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 cord blood banks in the world to be accredited by both AABB and FACT-Netcord simultaneously. In the area of clinical diagnostics, Cordlife India, HealthBaby and Hong Kong Screening Centre are accredited by the College of American Pathologists ("CAP"). 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 Cordlife Medical Phils. Inc**

Cordlife Philippines was officially launched in February 2010 as Philippines' first and only cord blood processing and cryopreservation facility to better serve the cord blood banking needs of the local market. Registered with the Department of Health, AABB-certified and ISO-certified facility was built in accordance to global gold standards such as the American Association of Blood Banks to give local families peace of mind. Operates 365 days a year, the facility is equipped with the world's most advanced fully automated cord blood processing system, SEPAX, and has a storage capacity for 30,000 cord blood units. In 1 July 2017, Cordlife Philippines became the first cord blood bank in the country to be accredited by AABB. Cordlife Philippines is a subsidiary of Cordlife Group Limited, a company listed on the Singapore Exchange. For more information, visit www.cordlife.com/ph.

### **About PlumCare™**

PlumCare™ was created by two eminent clinical geneticists, Dr. Paul Billings and Dr. Petros Tsipouras. PlumCare™ DNA Advisor provides access to families through DNA testing, analysis, insights, and learnings from world-class research in genomics and genetics. 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.