



Recovery of a placenta

Page 1 of 2

Background information and Disclaimer Form

Setting the context

In general, the placenta is a human anatomical waste and must be incinerated according to strict legislative provisions. However, when a placenta is claimed by a parent at the time of childbirth, it is no longer considered biomedical waste and is no longer subject to the requirements surrounding its destruction.

This document is given to you for your signature because you have expressed the wish that the placenta be returned to you following delivery.

In order to limit the risks, the placenta can only be returned to you under certain conditions, and in exchange for a commitment on your part to respect each of the measures described below.

Pathology examination

In general, following childbirth, the placenta is sent to the pathology laboratory, where a number of them are subjected to further examination and analysis, in some cases allowing the detection of pathologies that it would be useful to know about in view of subsequent pregnancies, and to obtain information relevant to the health of the newborn child.

Only those placentas for which an analysis is required will be sent to the laboratory. The decision to submit pathology specimens rests with the professional who collects them.

Placenta handling in the pathology laboratory is not performed under sterile conditions. Your claimed placenta could therefore come into contact with human tissue from other patients, potentially carrying pathogenic agents that could contaminate it and thus pose a risk to your health and that of those around you.

A placenta that should be sent to the laboratory for pathology analysis may be returned to you at a later date, but this may result in delays.

Infectious Risks

The MUHC may refuse to give you your placenta in certain situations, including, but not limited to, if a test reveals the presence of any pathogen, or if the MUHC is aware that the mother is a carrier of an infection such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV, tuberculosis or any other pathogen that may pose a risk to your health or that of any third person in connection with the handling of the placenta.

Even if the placenta is given to you, this does not mean that the MUHC confirms or guarantees that the mother is not a carrier of any infection, including those mentioned above, or that your placenta is free of pathogens that could transmit disease.

For this reason, each of the rules below must be followed as described.

Handling and storage of the placenta

Placenta should be handled at all times with waterproof gloves. Hands should be washed with soap and water after handling and removal of gloves.

An object that has been in contact with the placenta is likely to have been contaminated with any pathogen that may be present in the placenta, and should be considered contaminated and treated appropriately.

These rules are by no means exhaustive, and even compliance with them does not guarantee that there is no risk of contamination.

Consent : I understand that there are risks involved in the handling and storage of the placenta and I undertake to take all appropriate precautions. I acknowledge that the MUHC cannot be held responsible for any prejudice that may result directly or indirectly from an error in handling or storage of my placenta. _____ (initials)

Ingestion of the placenta

The ingestion of the placenta is strongly discouraged because of the risk of infection and the fact that it is not stored and/or handled under strict conditions required to ensure food safety.

Consent : I understand that the ingestion of the placenta is strongly discouraged and I assume full responsibility for any prejudice to myself and/or any third party that may result directly or indirectly from the ingestion of the placenta by myself or by a third party.

I acknowledge that the MUHC will not be held responsible for any prejudice that may result directly or indirectly from the ingestion of the placenta by myself or by a third party _____ (initials)

Placenta disposal

In order to prevent any risk of contamination, it is important to dispose of the placenta in accordance with all applicable legislation.

Consent : I understand that I am responsible for learning about the rules applicable to the disposal of my placenta, and I agree to abide by those rules, and to dispose of the placenta in a manner that ensures the safety of all persons.

I agree to take all measures to avoid environmental damage or any nuisance, for example, by ensuring that children and/or animals cannot have access to it.

At no time will I sell, give or enter into any transaction whatsoever with respect to my placenta. I discharge and release the MUHC from all liability for any prejudice that may result, directly or indirectly, from the handling or disposal of the placenta. _____ (initials)

General Disclaimer

I acknowledge that I have received and understood all of the information contained herein, and have been able to ask all of the questions necessary to make a free and informed decision regarding the delivery of my placenta.

I acknowledge that I assume all risks inherent to my decision to take possession of my placenta and to the use I will make of it. I hereby waive any legal action and/or claim against the MUHC, members of its staff and physicians practicing at the MUHC for any damage that may result directly or indirectly therefrom.

	Name in print letters	Signature	Initials	Date YYYY/MM/DD
User Patient				

	Name in print letters	Signature	License No.	Date YYYY/MM/DD
Professionnel Witness				