



15 November 2018

PRESS RELEASE

National programme for the storage of stem cells proposed by the Ombudsman

The immediate drafting of a national programme for the storage of umbilical cord blood (UCB) and a coordinated campaign to inform the public of its importance on the basis of the principle of social solidarity, has been proposed by the Ombudsman. The Independent Authority on the occasion of the World Cord Blood Day (15 November) stresses that the constitutional endorsement of the right to health and the choice of the public nature of the Health System, which should be strengthened as a counterweight to the economic inability of citizens, leads to the finding that biological material constitutes a public resource. On the issue raised by the shutting down of a private stem cell storage company, after the conclusion of the Authority's investigation and its findings report (<https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=health-and-socialwelfare.el.kpnews.463593>), the Ombudsman considers that the centre which stores and preserves the UCB samples has the responsibility to find a definitive solution. This is apparent from the relevant legal provisions and its contractual obligations, without entailing any further financial burden for the parents.

Information: 213 1306712, 213 1306670, press@synigoros.gr