

Directed, Autologous and Therapeutic Donations

Directed Donations:

- **What is a directed donation?**

A directed donation is when a specific donor makes a blood donation at the request of a patient and the patient's physician for use by that specific patient. Directed donors must meet all of the qualification and eligibility criteria of a regular blood donor.

- **What is required to complete a directed donation?**

A completed Directed Donor Request form, which outlines patient demographic information, when/where the transfusion will occur, blood products desired, quantity of blood products needed, unit/processing special instructions and patient blood type/antibody information, if available, is required to begin processing a directed donation. The Directed Donor Request form must be signed by both the ordering physician and the patient before a directed donor will be drawn. Completed Directed Donor Request forms should be faxed to 512-206-1365 to initiate processing.

- **How much time is needed from the receipt of the Directed Donor Request form until the unit is available at the hospital?**

From the time of collection, a directed blood donation can take anywhere from 48 hours up to one week to be made available for transfusion. To ensure we have time to contact, schedule and qualify potential donors and process/test the unit(s) of blood, we request a minimum of 7 days notice with a preferred timeframe of 10-14 days. If the units are to be transfused in a hospital outside our immediate service area, shipping will require additional time.

- **How is a specific donor identified?**

Upon receipt of the Directed Donor Request form, we will contact the patient to obtain names and contact information for the potential donors. We will then contact the potential donors to schedule the appropriate appointment and/or testing. Directed donations require a significant amount of coordination among the blood center, the donor and the patient/patient's physician, so it is important that patients and potential directed donors understand that an appointment is required for us to best meet the transfusion needs.

- **What if the patient's and/or donor's blood type, antibody screen and/or CMV status is unknown?**

We can complete blood typing, antibody screening and CMV testing on patients and potential donors for an additional fee if this initial compatibility information is unknown or unable to be performed through the hospital. Initial compatibility testing results are typically available with 24 to 72 hours after sample collection.

- **What if there is not enough time to complete initial compatibility testing?**



In the event that there is not enough time to complete initial compatibility testing, we can proceed without this information. However, if the patient and donor are determined to be incompatible, the unit will not be available for transfusion and the directed donation handling fee will not be refunded.

- **What criteria do potential donors need to meet?**

Directed donors must meet all of the qualification and eligibility criteria of a regular blood donor. For a general list of requirements, please see our website, www.inyourhands.org, and look under the “who can donate” tab. Eligibility questions that are not answered on the website can be directed to whocandonate@inyourhands.org or by calling 512-206-1108.

- **What types of patients are best suited for directed donation?**

Surgical patients who have a specific transfusion date are best suited for directed donations. Having a specific transfusion date allows for planning/scheduling to ensure that the blood does not expire prior to the transfusion date and prevents the patient from having to wait for the directed blood to be made available for transfusion.

- **What types of patients are not well suited for directed donation?**

Patients whose transfusion needs cannot be predicted in advance of the transfusion date, who would need blood to be immediately available for transfusion or who would need blood in mass quantity are not well suited for directed donations.

- **How long is blood good for?**

Whole Blood: 35 days

Packed Red Blood Cells: 42 days

Platelets: 3 days

Fresh Frozen Plasma: 1 year

- **What is the advantage of directed donation?**

The primary advantage to directed donation is patient peace of mind.

- **What are the disadvantages of directed donation?**

- The most frequently cited disadvantages of directed donation include the advance planning requirement, difficulty of identifying compatible donors and risk of disease transmission and transfusion reaction/complication, including but not limited to Graft Versus Host Disease.

- **What is the cost of a directed donation?**

The directed donation handling fee is currently \$130 and is subject to change without notice. This fee covers the additional coordination between the donor, Blood Center, patient/patient’s physician and hospital, special labeling, storage and delivery of the unit to the transfusing facility. Additionally there is a \$137 fee, which is also subject to change without notice, for units requiring irradiation. All fees are due prior to drawing the directed donor and are payable by cash or check. The fees may be paid by the donor or the patient. The hospital will bill the patient and/or the patient’s insurance for the blood itself as well as any fees associated with performing the transfusion.

- **What alternatives are there to directed donation?**



1. Autologous Donation: A patient may qualify, depending on their overall health, to have their own blood collected in advance of a specified transfusion date.
 2. Blood Assurance Coupons: Each regular blood donor is provided a Blood Assurance Coupon at the time of their donation. Each coupon is good towards reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs for blood products that are not covered by the patient's insurance. Each coupon is valued at \$10.00.
 3. Blood from Hospital Inventory: Blood from the hospital inventory is immediately available in a multitude of blood types and antigen combinations and has been thoroughly screened to reduce risk of disease transmission.
- **When and where do directed donations take place?**
Directed donations are handled by appointment Tuesday-Thursday between the hours of 9:30-3:30 at our main facility located at 4300 North Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78756.
 - **Who can I call with additional questions regarding directed donations?**
Our special donations coordinator can be reached by phone at 512-206-1265.

Autologous donations:

- **What is an autologous donation?**
Autologous donation is the collection and storage of a patient's own blood prior to a known transfusion date, such as surgery.
- **What is required to complete an autologous donation?**
A completed Autologous Physician's Request form, which outlines patient demographic information, when/where the transfusion will occur, blood products desired, quantity of blood products needed, unit/processing special instructions and a brief patient medical history is required to begin processing an autologous donation. The Autologous Physician's Request form must be signed by both the ordering physician before an autologous donor will be drawn. Completed Autologous Physician's Request forms should be faxed to 512-206-1365 to initiate processing.
- **How much time is needed from the receipt of the autologous orders until the unit is available at the hospital?**
To ensure we have sufficient time to contact, schedule and qualify the autologous donor and allow for recuperation time following the blood draw, we request a minimum of 7 days notice with a preferred notification timeframe of 2-4 weeks prior to intended transfusion date. If the units are to be transfused in a hospital outside our immediate service area, shipping will require additional time.
- **What fees are associated with an autologous donation?**
There are no upfront fees for autologous donation. The Blood Center will bill the hospital for the blood unit and the hospital will bill the patient and/or the patient's insurance for the blood itself as well as any fees associated with performing the transfusion. The hospital will bill the patient for the autologous blood whether it is used or not.
- **If the patient does not use the blood can it go to general blood inventory?**



Autologous donors are screened under different and less restrictive qualification guidelines that focus on donor not recipient safety. Therefore, autologous blood is not suitable for any person other than the donor and may not be crossed over into the general supply.

- **Do any conditions preclude a patient from donating autologous blood?**

We evaluate each patient's medical history individually in accordance with industry standards set by the FDA and guidelines set by our Medical Director. Not all patients who are cleared for surgery will qualify for autologous blood donation. Some patients may require a clearance from their cardiologist, nephrologists, hematologist, or other attending physician before they can be considered for autologous donation. Receipt of a clearance does not guarantee that a donor will be qualified for autologous donation. .

- **When and where do these donations take place?**

Autologous donations are handled by appointment Tuesday-Thursday between the hours of 9:30-3:30 at our main facility located at 4300 North Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78756.

- **Who can I call with additional questions regarding autologous donations?**

Our special donations coordinator can be reached by phone at 512-206-1265.

Therapeutic donations:

- **What is a therapeutic donation?**

A therapeutic donation is blood which is collected and discarded to aid in the treatment of an underlying medical condition.

- **What is required to complete a Therapeutic donation?**

A completed Therapeutic Physician's Request, which outlines patient demographic information, diagnosis prompting the therapeutic phlebotomy, target hematocrit, and frequency of phlebotomy, is required to begin processing a therapeutic donation.

- **How much time is needed from the receipt of the therapeutic orders until the patient can be drawn?**

Once the Therapeutic Physician's Request form is received and it is determined that the patient has no underlying health condition requiring additional clearance, such as cardiac complications from their overseeing physician, we can typically draw the donor as soon as their schedule allows.

- **What fees are associated with a therapeutic donation?**

The therapeutic donation processing fee is \$20 and is subject to change without notice. This fee covers the collection and destruction of the blood. We are not a treatment provider and cannot bill insurance for fees associated with therapeutic phlebotomy.



- **Can the blood go to the general blood inventory?**
Therapeutic donors are screened under different and less restrictive qualification guidelines. Therefore, therapeutic blood is not suitable for transfusion and may not be crossed over into the general supply.
- **Do any conditions preclude a patient from donating therapeutic blood?**
We evaluate each patient's medical history individually in accordance with industry standards set by the FDA and guidelines set by our Medical Director. Some patients may require a clearance from their cardiologist, nephrologists, hematologist, or other attending physician before they can be considered for therapeutic donation. Receipt of a clearance does not guarantee that a donor will be qualified for therapeutic donation.
- **When and where do these donations take place?**
Therapeutic donations are handled by appointment Tuesday-Thursday between the hours of 9:30-3:30 at our main facility located at 4300 North Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78756.
- **Who can I call with additional questions regarding therapeutic donations?**
Our special donations coordinator can be reached by phone at 512-206-1265.