

Special Donations

So you have a planned surgery?

Community Blood Center of the Ozarks is a not-for-profit organization which provides blood and blood components used by hospital patients in our thirty-eight county service region. Autologous and directed donations are provided as an additional service to patients.

Community Blood Center of the Ozarks is committed to ensuring a safe and adequate blood supply for transfusion recipients in our area hospitals. We adhere to all federal guidelines and standards as set forth by the Food and Drug Administration and AABB. A multi-tiered donor screening system includes an extensive health history interview, donor deferral procedures, and state of the art safety testing. Community Blood Center of the Ozarks meets or exceeds all requirements for blood safety, purity and potency.

If you have the time to plan and if conditions warrant, your physician might recommend that you consider autologous or directed blood donation before your surgery. Here is some information to consider before you make this important decision.

Autologous Donation

DEFINITION: The pre-operative donation of blood for possible transfusion back to the donor.

DETAILS/QUALIFICATIONS: While autologous donors do not have to meet all health requirements for a typical blood donation, they must complete an abbreviated medical history in order to qualify.

- Candidates should be medically stable and free of infection.
- Adequate hemoglobin (iron) levels must be maintained at all times. Please discuss the need for iron supplements with your physician when considering autologous donation.
- There is no age limitation for this procedure. Many children and elderly patients have successfully completed this type of donation.
- Blood is usually drawn at weekly intervals, but may be collected as frequently as every seventy-two hours. The last donation must be collected no later than three days prior to the scheduled date of surgery.
- Since whole blood donations have a shelf life of forty-two days, autologous donations must be carefully scheduled. Unused units are usually retained for the patient until after expiration.

Directed Donation

DEFINITION: The pre-operative donation of blood for possible transfusion to the donor's friend or family member.

DETAILS/QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates for this type of donation must meet the same health requirements as are required for typical blood donors.

- It is important that the donor's blood type is ABO and Rh compatible with the patient and is not at risk for a transfusion related infection. Additional qualifications may be required for some specialized cases, such as premature infants or immunosuppressed patients.

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Directed Donation cont.

- The donations must be made no later than three working days prior to the scheduled surgery in order to complete all necessary processing.
- Directed donations not used by the patient will be released into the general blood supply. Those units that do not pass screening will not be released for transfusion.
- For reasons of donor confidentiality, no information regarding donor identity or laboratory results can be released to anyone other than the donor.
- There are certain conditions which might make directed donations from certain blood relatives inadvisable. Please consult with your physician to determine if a directed donation is the best option for you.

What are the requirements?

- Both autologous and directed donations require a written physician's request. Therefore, it is important to coordinate the procedures with your physician and Community Blood Center of the Ozarks.
- There are special handling fees associated with autologous and directed donations. These fees may include shipping costs, special testing, irradiation, or antibody screening. Some fees (including all autologous donation fees) will be charged whether or not the patient uses the blood.
- Not all insurance policies cover the fees associated with autologous and directed donations. Please consult with your health insurance provider for more information.

Like any medical procedure, blood transfusions carry certain risks. These risks should be discussed with your physician to determine if special donation is right for you.

For more information about autologous or directed blood donation, please contact:

Special Donations Department
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Springfield, MO 65804
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1-800-280-5337



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OF THE OZARKS
not-for-profit organization