

DIRECTED DONATIONS - PATIENT INFORMATION

1. Blood transfusions, like other medical treatments, have some occasional risks, but are an important part of therapy in selected medical and surgical conditions. This service is offered due to requests from our patients and in **NO WAY** implies the general blood supply is unsafe. It is important that you and your physician discuss your need for blood and the possibility for autologous donation (self-donation). Autologous donation may also be arranged through Blood Donor Services.
2. The Mercy Hospital St. Louis Blood Bank does not believe, and does not offer or imply any warranty, that directed blood donations decrease the generally recognized risks of transfusion; e.g., reactions, infections, etc. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF DONATIONS WHICH ARE ABO/RH COMPATIBLE FOR YOU.** The actual number of donations needed will be determined by your physician. Mercy Hospital St. Louis assumes no responsibility for any medical or financial consequences resulting from over-estimation or under-estimation of this number of donations. Since 10-15% of presenting donors are unable to give and/or complete a donation, extra donors should be available. The Blood Bank is not responsible for notifying you if your directed donors are found unsuitable, or if donors fail to keep their appointments. Donors will only be accepted if a completed Directed Donation Request form is on file in Blood Donor Services.
3. Charges for Directed Donations may include:
 - Directed donor processing/transfusion service fees (for every unit transfused).
 - Washed cell processing (if unit is not ABO specific).
 - Irradiation of blood products. (Blood donations from relatives **must** be irradiated.)

These charges may or may not be covered by your medical insurance policy. You may wish to check with your carrier.

THERE IS NO CHARGE TO THE BLOOD DONOR.

4. ABO/RH COMPATIBILITY:

AB Positive accepts	AB Positive, AB Negative, A Positive, A Negative, B Positive, B Negative, O Positive, O Negative
AB Negative accepts	AB Negative, A Negative, B Negative, O Negative
A Positive accepts	A Positive, A Negative, O Positive, O Negative
A Negative accepts	A Negative, O Negative
B Positive accepts	B Positive, B Negative, O Positive, O Negative
B Negative accepts	B Negative, O Negative
O Positive accepts	O Positive, O Negative
O Negative accepts	O Negative

5. If you require more blood products than have been collected in your name, they will come from the general inventory.
6. **Information pertaining to all blood donors is strictly confidential.**
7. Units incompatible with the recipient will be placed in the general Blood Bank inventory.
8. All whole blood donors must be in good health and between the ages of 17-78.

9. If a directed donor gives whole blood, only the red cells from the unit will be held for the intended recipient, unless a written order is provided by the patient's physician.
10. Patients with ongoing transfusion needs must contact Blood Donor Services personnel. Directed Donor Request forms for these patients will remain on current file for 12 months. After that time, new Directed Donation Request forms will be required.
11. Unused directed units will be released to the general pool 3-7 days prior to expiration.

PARTICIPATION IN THE DIRECTED DONATION SERVICE REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING:

1. Patient and physician have determined the number of units needed.
2. A fully completed Directed Donation Request form is provided to the Blood Donor Services before the donor(s) arrive. **Information can only be provided by the patient.** Completed forms may be sent by FAX, 314-251-7454 (St. Louis) or 636-239-8267 (Washington).
3. Donors should schedule their own appointments by calling **314-251-4483** (St. Louis, Monday – Friday) or **636-239-8751** (Washington, Monday – Thursday). At this time, a brief medical history will be taken by the Blood Donor Services personnel. Appointments should be made well in advance of a scheduled transfusion or surgery. It takes a **MINIMUM OF 3 BUSINESS DAYS** for testing and processing of donated units. Donated blood is not available for patient use until all testing and processing has been completed.
4. Please call the Blood Bank, 314-251-6398, at least 5 days before the scheduled transfusion or surgical procedure to determine if there are enough units to cover your transfusion needs. This should allow time to recruit more donors if additional units are needed.