

DIRECTED DONATION INFORMATION FOR THE RECIPIENT



Versiti offers a Directed Donation Program whereby donations may be directed to specific patients for planned surgeries or transfusions. The Directed Donation Program is intended to provide blood for patients with rare blood types when blood cannot be sourced from the general supply. Before choosing to participate in this program, you and your physician should discuss the risks associated with directed donation, as listed below, as well as the benefits of the community blood supply, which is exceptionally safe.

Risks of Directed Donation

Published studies demonstrate increased rates of infectious disease markers in directed donors when compared to allogeneic donors. This finding is attributed to the undue pressure on friends and family members to donate for their loved one. To gain perceived eligibility, it is believed donors may inaccurately complete the Donor History Questionnaire.

There is no FDA licensed test to evaluate if donors have had the COVID vaccine. Therefore, directed donors and their blood units cannot be evaluated for evidence of COVID vaccination.

Finally, there is no guarantee your transfusion needs will be met by using directed donations or that units collected will be available for your planned procedure or transfusion date due to the reasons listed below. *We strongly recommend* you and your physician discuss plans for blood transfusion if directed units are not available.

Clinical Situations Where Directed Donation is NOT Recommended or May Not Be Safe

It is NOT recommended that a female patient of childbearing age receive blood from a husband or male partner, as their blood may cause immunization of the patient and therefore compromise future pregnancies.

It is NOT recommended that a female donate blood to their biological child or biological father of her child, as antibodies that may have been produced during pregnancy could cause a reaction during transfusion.

It is NOT recommended to have directed units if you have red blood cell antibodies in your blood.

It is NOT recommended to have directed units if you have had or will have a transplant or stem cell transplant in the future.

Availability of the Directed Donor Units

Directed units must be ABO and Rh compatible with the recipient's blood type and are subjected to the same tests as other donated blood. If, for any reason, the directed unit fails testing or is otherwise not suitable for transfusion, it is discarded.

Directed donors of unsuitable donations are informed of abnormal test results only when all tests including confirmatory testing, have been completed. This notification may be later than the recipient's transfusion date.

It is important to note, to protect the confidentiality rights of the donor, neither recipient nor the ordering physician are notified of non-suitable units. Only information pertaining to the availability of suitable units will be released.

Once the compatible, suitable directed units matching the order have been collected, the units will be distributed to the appropriate transfusing hospital's blood bank. The blood bank will cross-match the units with a sample of your blood. Only cross-match compatible units will be held and reserved for your surgery in the hospital blood bank.

Other reasons (outside of compatibility and positive testing) directed units may not be available for your surgery include, but are not limited to:

- Breakage of the plastic container
- Inadvertent contamination of the blood
- Need for repeat or additional testing
- Risk of error in processing, storage and administration of products which is greater than in routine allogeneic transfusions

For these and other reasons beyond its control, Versiti cannot guarantee that directed donor units will be available. In such circumstances, your physician may decide to supplement your transfusion with blood from the community blood supply. *Again, we strongly recommend* you and your physician discuss plans for blood transfusion if directed units are not available.

Charges for Directed Units

Due to special handling, a surcharge is added to the blood processing fee charged to the hospital for each unit sent. Health insurance (including Medicare) may not cover processing fees for directed units and/or additional processing as needed.

Also, to standardize directed units and improve safety of the blood (such as prevention of a rare transfusion complication known as graft-versus-host disease), all directed products from blood relatives will be irradiated. All products are leukoreduced for safety.

Requesting Directed Donor Units

- To request directed donations for your use, your physician must call SPS at (414) 937-6188 or 1-800-525-1388 for an order form.
- Your physician must also verify the hospital's blood bank, who will provide the units the day of your procedure, is willing to receive and store directed units.
- To allow ample time for collection, testing, processing, and delivery to the hospital blood bank, donors must donate at least 7, but not more than 14 working days, (excluding Sundays and holidays) before the date of the surgery.
- If more products are needed after the original surgery date, a new order must be completed by your physician.
- Prospective donors must submit documentation of their blood type prior to scheduling.

Appointments for Donors

Once SPS has received your physician's order for directed donation, prospective donors can submit documentation of their blood type and contact information by fax to (414) 937-6439 or email to SPSAlerts@versiti.org. If the prospective donor is compatible with the recipient, the SPS department will reach out for scheduling.

Donations may be collected at any of our donation centers. Refer to website <https://www.versiti.org/> for specific center locations and hours of operations.

**All questions regarding this program may be directed to
Versiti Special Patient Services at
(414) 937-6188 or 1-800-525-1388.**

Please refer to our website www.versiti.org.