

AUTOLOGOUS DONATION INFORMATION

FOR THE PATIENT



The Autologous (Self) Donation Program of Versiti allows you (the patient) to donate your own blood to meet the anticipated transfusion needs for **planned** surgeries. The use of autologous blood has decreased dramatically over the years because donor screening protocols and very sensitive tests have been developed to reduce the risk of transmission of diseases like hepatitis and HIV amongst other pathogens. Therefore, collection of autologous units is no longer a clinical standard practice. It is important to note, availability of your autologous units on the day of your procedure cannot be guaranteed due to reasons listed below. Please review this form in its entirety before scheduling.

You are strongly encouraged to discuss your transfusion desires with your physician in the event your autologous units are not available or not sufficient to meet your medical needs on the day of your procedure.

Donor Eligibility

It is the responsibility of your physician and the medical staff at Versiti to determine whether your health will permit you to donate safely. For your safety, certain guidelines must be followed:

There are several contraindications to autologous donations:

- Any heart diseases or other condition which may cause an adverse reaction during blood donation.
- Unmanaged aortic stenosis.
- Heart Attack (myocardial infarction) within the past 6 months.
- Hemoglobin less than 12.5 g/dL for females and 13.0 g/dL for males.
- High blood pressure greater than 180/100 mm Hg.
- Active infection with or without ongoing antibiotic treatment.
- Seizures within the past 2 months.
- Weighing less than 110 pounds.

Note: In the event you are not able to understand the donation procedure or reliably answer the medical history questionnaire given before donation, your legal representative must be available to provide appropriate medical information and/or donation authorization in case of need.

Process of Donation

On the day of donation, you will be given a mini-physical. A medical history, blood pressure, pulse, temperature, and a small sample of blood to test hemoglobin will be taken. If you pass this mini-physical and meet the eligibility criteria, a unit of blood will be drawn. This process will take approximately one hour.

You may donate in an interval of 3 days between donations prior to surgery, as long as the required allogeneic hemoglobin level is met. The donation must be made **at least seven days prior** to the date of surgery.

Adverse Reactions

Although rare, you may experience an adverse reaction during blood collection or within a few hours after blood drawing. These reactions include, but are not limited to: discomfort, swelling and bruising at the needle site; loss of consciousness, nausea, vomiting, injury to blood vessels or nerves, and infection. Some reactions may preclude any further autologous donations. In this and other instances, blood from the community blood

supply may be needed for your surgery. You are strongly encouraged to discuss your transfusion desires with your physician in the event your autologous units are not available or not sufficient for your medical needs.

To prevent donation reactions, it is recommended that you hydrate well and have a full, high protein meal within the two hours preceding the donation.

What Happens to the Blood?

A special autologous label with information linking the unit to you is affixed to the blood bag. Upon meeting testing and processing requirements, the product is delivered to the hospital's blood bank where the surgery is scheduled.

Availability of the Autologous Donor Unit

Reasons for which the blood 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
- Hospital blood bank refusal of autologous donor units which are positive for infectious disease markers

Charges for Autologous Units

As the Autologous Donor Program requires the services of many trained professionals, special handling of the blood, and additional paperwork, the processing charges for each autologous unit are higher than for other donated blood. These charges are assessed even if the blood is never transfused. There are additional charges for shipping the units out of Versiti service areas. Health insurance (including Medicare) may not cover processing fees for autologous blood and/or for additional processing as needed.

Transfusion Outside Versiti Service Areas

Drawing of autologous units to be transferred to hospitals outside the service areas needs to be approved by Versiti Hospital Services. If your blood needs to be shipped to another blood center, you are responsible for making arrangements in advance with the center to assure they will accept these shipments. **Important note:** Autologous units testing **reactive for infectious disease markers** will be shipped depending on acceptance by the physician and transfusing facility. If not accepted, these units will be discarded.

Requesting Autologous Donor Units

As soon as possible after the decision for surgery is made, please review this information with your physician. To request autologous units for your use, your physician must call SPS at (414) 937-6188 or 1-800-525-1388. An *Autologous Donation Prescription* will be provided concerning how many units are needed and need by date. 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 autologous units.

Questions?

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

Versiti will contact you to obtain a brief health history and arrange an appointment once we receive the Autologous Donation Prescription from your physician.

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.