

PHYSICIAN INFORMATION FOR AUTOLOGOUS BLOOD DONATION

SOUTH BEND / GOSHEN

The South Bend Medical Foundation recognizes that some patients prefer the Autologous Blood Donation Program rather than using blood from the Volunteer Blood Donation Program. Patients may preoperatively donate autologous blood, which will be available for their own transfusion in the future. Because a unit of red cells is good for only 42 days after collection, it is essential that the unit be transfused within that period.

Guidelines for Donation

1. Autologous donations are performed only at the written request of the patient's physician and only by appointment. If South Bend Medical Foundation has not received a written request, the patient **cannot** be drawn. Please follow the "Instructions to Physician" on the order form.
2. There is no upper age limit for autologous donations. The lower age limit is set by practical considerations. Children who have adequate veins and who are cooperative usually tolerate the phlebotomy as well as adults.
3. The patient, regardless of age, must weigh at least 110 lbs. and have hematocrit level of at least 33% prior to donation.
4. An autologous donation is not indicated for a normal, uncomplicated pregnancy.
5. No more one unit (450ml) should be drawn at a single donation.
6. Preoperative donations should be made no more frequently than every 7 days, with the final phlebotomy occurring at least 72 hours prior to surgery.
7. Candidates for autologous donation need not meet all the usual criteria required of a volunteer donor. Bacteremia is an absolute contraindication to autologous donation because bacteria may proliferate in stored blood. Antibiotic therapy (other than for prophylaxis) must be completed prior to a donation and donor must be symptom free.
8. Autologous donors with a history of heart attack may be accepted if there is no evidence of residual impairment. A history of angina is also acceptable if there has been no episode in the past six months. The donor should bring a written explanation from their cardiologist describing their condition.
9. Autologous donations are not performed on an emergency basis.
10. A pathologist will send patients deemed to be at high risk to a hospital emergency room for monitoring during the collection procedure.



PROCEDURE FOR THE PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE

The physician needs to:

- Explain the advantages, nature and purpose of the autologous donation to the patient.
- Complete the Autologous Blood Donation Order and fax to the appropriate donor center.
Douglas Road Donor Center or Ireland Road Donor Center: 574-204-5956
Rieth Boulevard Donor Center: 574-807-3729
- Please note: if surgery will be at Elkhart General Hospital, the autologous donation must be scheduled through EGH
- Give the patient a copy of "Instructions for the Patient," the consent form and the completed Autologous Blood Donation Order.
- Instruct the patient to telephone the appropriate SBMF donor center to schedule an appointment for the phlebotomy procedure.

The blood will be sent to the hospital designated on the order form prior to the patient's surgery. If any changes occur in the date of surgery or the designated hospital, contact the appropriate donor center immediately.

AUTOLOGOUS BLOOD DONATION ORDER

PATIENT NAME _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____ - _____ - _____ DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____

PATIENT ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE (_____-_____) MEDICARE NO. _____

REASON FOR AUTOLOGOUS DONATION _____

TYPE OF SURGERY _____

HOSPITAL _____ SURGERY DATE ____/____/____

REMARKS _____

RED CELL UNITS NEEDED. _____ OTHER PRODUCT (SPECIFY) _____

I request that the above patient donate the requested number of units for autologous transfusion. I consider the patient in sufficiently good health to donate at this time. I understand the patient will be scheduled at weekly intervals with the last donation occurring a minimum of three days prior to the anticipated reinfusion date. If an alternate donation interval schedule is desired, please specify in REMARKS above.

PHYSICIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE _____ TELEPHONE (_____-_____) _____

**PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR
AUTOLOGOUS BLOOD DONATIONS**

1. Please schedule an appointment with the donor center of your choice.

Douglas Road Donor Center

3355 Douglas Rd
South Bend, IN 46635
Call: 574-234-1157
Hours: Monday – Friday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm
and Saturday 7:30 am to 2:00 pm

Rieth Boulevard Donor Center

2222 Rieth Blvd, Ste. 105
Goshen, IN 46526
Call: 574-204-4040
Hours: call for an appointment
Please note: if surgery is at Elk General
Hospital, you must schedule donation
through EGH.

Ireland Road Donor Center

1290 Ireland Rd., Ste. 700
South Bend, IN 46614
Call: 574-204-5920
Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.: 8 am to 4:30 pm
Wednesday: 9:30 am – 6 pm
Saturday: 7:30 am – 2 pm

2. Donating blood is safe and painless. You will probably not feel any physical discomfort if you remain calm. Sometimes, nervousness about donating will bring on feelings of nausea and dizziness. If you relax, these discomforts may not occur.
3. Before coming in to donate, make sure you have eaten a normal meal. This usually helps to avoid feeling dizzy during or after the donation.
4. Bring a list of any medications you are taking.
5. A unit of blood is good for only 42 days. Therefore, a delay in your scheduled surgery could result in your unit not being available.
6. Donations cannot be made if you have a cold or flu. You may donate three days after all symptoms have subsided.
7. The last autologous donation must occur at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled surgery. If more than one unit is requested the interval between donations is must be at least 7 days.
8. You will be charged a processing fee for each unit by the hospital, whether the unit is transfused or not. Units that are not transfused will remain at the blood bank of the hospital where your surgery was performed until they expire. Your units will not be given to anyone else because more lenient guidelines are used for autologous donations.
9. Please bring picture ID.
10. If you have any questions about donating autologous blood, please contact our staff at any of our locations.