

AUTOLOGOUS DONATION PROTOCOL

A Step-By-Step Guide to Autologous Blood Donation

Autologous blood is declining in use, not just in the United States but internationally, due to dramatic increases in blood testing for infectious diseases and recent medical literature calling the effectiveness of the process into question. It should only be considered when: 1) elective surgery is scheduled a minimum of one month in the future, 2) the surgical procedure is known to have a substantial risk of requiring blood transfusion, 3) the donor is healthy enough to tolerate collections of 500 mL of whole blood, and 4) when sufficient time will pass between the last donation and the date of surgery to allow the donor to recover. Current studies suggest that many patients are better served by optimizing their hemoglobin prior to surgery, along with careful blood conserving surgical techniques during surgery.

1. PHYSICIAN ORDER:

A physician's order is required prior to collection of blood. A signed request must be mailed or faxed (fax preferred) to LifeStream's Medical Services staff. If more than one product is needed for the patient, a single order request will suffice.

2. SCREENING AND SCHEDULING:

LifeStream will contact and interview the patient to determine their suitability as a donor and schedule an appointment for donation. If the donor is eligible, we will schedule donations so that they are completed more than 14 days before surgery to allow recovery. Unless approved by our physician, LifeStream will not collect donors within 14 days of surgery. When scheduling, keep in mind the following expiration dates of blood components:

- **Red cells** expire 42 days after collection.
- **Platelets** expire 5 days after collection.
- **Frozen plasma and cryoprecipitate** expire one year from date of collection.

3. LOW WEIGHT PATIENTS (80 to 109 pounds)

- **Red cells only** (low volume unit 350ml) **No additional components will be made from unit.**
- **Unit will NOT be leukoreduced.**

4. PATIENTS WITH A HISTORY OF SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

LifeStream's Medical Director is medically and legally responsible for determining final eligibility of potential autologous blood donors. On occasion, we may contact you for written medical clearance for patients who have had a history of serious medical conditions. This written clearance may be faxed to LifeStream's Medical Services staff (reference fax number below) or the patient may present the document upon his/her first appointment.

5. FEES AND BILLING:

Autologous and directed blood components will be billed to LifeStream-contracted customer/hospitals.

Patients requiring services for a non-contracted or back-up contract facility will be referred to the hospital's preferred blood provider. Fees may apply if services are provided for blood to be shipped to non-contracted facilities.

Donors of autologous and directed blood components for use in facilities not contracted with LifeStream will generally need to make payment in advance. This process is coordinated with Medical Services and the LifeStream Finance Department. Charges may include autologous administration fee, component fee, and shipping fees.

LifeStream will bill the hospital for Medicare and Workers' Compensation patients, if the hospital is a LifeStream contracted customer/hospital.

Medicare and Workers' Compensation patients whose transfusion will occur at a non-LifeStream facility will be referred to the hospital's preferred blood provider.

LifeStream does not bill private insurance companies.

6. APPOINTMENTS:

Please contact LifeStream **Medical Services:**

- **Toll Free:** 877.386.6874 **Fax:** 909.386.6817