



Directed Donation Information for Patients and Families

Directed Donation is when a patient who needs a transfusion selects his or her own blood donors.

What do I need to know about directed donation?

Directed Donation is an option, not a requirement.

Another option to help boost the blood supply for all is to donate blood to the general blood supply. Family or friends of the patient can volunteer to donate through the American Red Cross or another blood center.

Directed Donor Blood is not collected at UM Hospital.

Blood collection agencies such as the American Red Cross collect blood for directed donations for our patients and ship it directly to the UMHS Blood Bank. We will assist you with the process and submit the required forms to the appropriate donor center.

Directed Donor Blood is not safer than blood collected from Community Volunteer Donors.

All donors, including Directed Donors, are interviewed and are tested for signs of infectious diseases (disease that can pass from one person to another). Blood from Directed Donors has the same risk of causing a transfusion reaction or transmitting an infectious disease as blood from the community volunteer blood supply. Patients sometimes feel more secure selecting their own donors, but it is not a guarantee of safety and is not better medically.

Directed Donor Blood cannot be done in an emergency.

Testing, processing, and shipping take a **minimum** of 7 days after donation.

Directed Donor Blood has a limited shelf life: 35-42 days.

Collecting a unit of Directed Donor Blood is more costly for the hospital and the collection agency than blood from Community Volunteer Donors. In addition to the costs of collecting a unit of blood, Directed Donor Blood requires separate storage, special tracking, and additional administrative costs. Most insurance companies do not pay the additional costs needed for processing a directed blood donation. **The Patient will be charged** a fee for directed donor blood, even if the patient does not use it for any reason. Out-of-area collection centers may charge additional fees for shipping. These fees are non-refundable.

Directed Donor Blood may not be available for the intended recipient because of many reasons such as incompatibility (if the donor blood does not match the patient's), breakage, infectious disease test results, storage conditions, or other reasons. In an event of a national or local disaster or a life-threatening patient care need, Directed Donor Blood may be used for other patients.

How do I plan for a directed donation?

- **Contact your doctor** to find out how much blood you may need. Ask the doctor to complete the Directed Donation Physician Request form and the American Red Cross Special Collection Form.
- **Contact the Apheresis Procedure Unit (APU)** (a part of the Blood Bank) at 734-936-6900 for information and assistance in arranging the donation. APU will send the Physician Order for Directed Donation by FAX to the collection center offices.

Blood Bank and Transfusion Service
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- **Do not send forms directly to the blood center.** Mail or FAX forms to the UM Blood Bank for processing. Address: 1500 E. Medical Center Drive - UH2F221 University Hospital - Box 0054 - Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0054. FAX: 734-936-6875.
- **Know your blood type and the blood types of your donors.** Your doctor may have your blood type information in existing records. If not, a blood type test may be ordered by your doctor.
- **Assign one person** - it could be the patient, a family member or a friend - **to be the Directed Donor Coordinator.** The Coordinator works with the Blood Bank, the collection agency, and the selected donors to plan and coordinate the process.
- When donors call the collection agency to make appointments, they will need to provide the following information about the patient: name, UMHS Medical Record Number, and birth date. The blood center will also ask the donor to give identifying information.

Please call APU at 734-936-6900 for forms, collection center information, or questions about Directed Donation.

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by UMHS and for which UMHS does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

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