



What is an Autologous Donation?

Autologous donations are donations that individual gives for their own use- for example, before surgery.

What are the requirements for Autologous Donation?

- Physician's prescription
- You must be in reasonably good health. You will not be allowed to self-donate if you have an active infection and you may not be allowed if you have a heart condition.
- There is no age limitation for autologous donation. For donor's who are younger than 17 years should have a parent consent and patients who are 75 and older should have a medical clearance from his/her regular physician to donate blood.
- Unless otherwise directed by a physician, you may safely donate blood every four to seven days and up to three business days before your surgery as long as you meet the donation guidelines.
- Your hemoglobin/hematocrit will be checked and must be at a satisfactory level before donating. A physician may prescribe iron supplements to prevent deferral at the donation site, especially if you have been anemic or are making more than one donation.
- If blood loss during your surgery is less than anticipated, transfusing the autologous blood may not be medically necessary. If the donated blood is not used during surgery, it is discarded since current safety standards do not allow its transfusion to other patients.

If any medical reason or any other reason you won't be able to donate for yourself, you can ask a family member or a friend to donate for you. This donation is referred to as **Directed Donation**.

What is a Directed Donation?

A directed donation occurs when a patient's family and friends donate blood for his or her upcoming procedure. A patient must give consent to the selected donors to donate for his/her upcoming procedure. The form must be filled out and signed and should be available at the time of donation.

Carefully consider the following:

- There is no evidence that patients can select safer donors than the volunteer blood system provides.
- All donated blood products are tested with the same tests for HIV and other infectious diseases, which further enhances the safety of the blood supply.
- The units donated for directed donation will be available after 5 working days from the time of donation.
- Blood from Directed Donors will be held until 72 hours after the anticipated date of transfusion unless on special circumstances. The blood will be released to general inventory if not used by the patient it is directed to.

If you have any question regarding Blood Donation. Please call Good Samaritan Hospital Donor Program at (845) 368- 5178 or email patricia_bonnier@bshsi.org