

DIRECTED DONATION
Information for Patients and Families

Directed Donation occurs when a patient with an anticipated need for transfusion selects his or her own blood donors.

Directed Donation is an option for patients, not a requirement. Another option for patients' families who wish to help boost the blood supply for all is to donate as a volunteer donor to the general blood supply through the American Red Cross or other blood center.

Directed Donor Blood is not collected at UM Hospital. The Blood Bank's Transfusion and Apheresis Service can assist in coordinating arrangements for Directed Donation with American Red Cross or other blood collection agencies.

Directed Donor Blood has not been shown to be safer than blood collected from Community Volunteer Donors. All donors, including Directed Donors, are interviewed and are tested for signs of infectious diseases. Blood from Directed Donors has the same risk of causing a transfusion reaction or transmitting and infectious disease as blood from the community volunteer blood supply. Patients sometimes feel more secure selecting their own donors, but it is no guarantee of safety and offers no measurable medical advantage.

Directed Donor Blood cannot be processed for an emergency. Testing, processing, and shipping takes 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 fees associated with this process. **The Patient will be charged** a fee for directed donor blood, whether it is used by the patient or not. Out-of-area collection centers may charge additional fees for shipping as well. These fees are non-refundable.

Directed Donor Blood may not be available for the intended recipient due to incompatibility, 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.

To plan for Directed Donation:

- **Contact your physician** to determine how much blood may be needed and to ask the physician to complete the Directed Donation Physician Request form and American Red Cross Special Collection Form.
- **Contact the Apheresis Procedure Unit (APU)** – a part of the Blood Bank – to obtain information and assistance in arranging donation. APU will send the Physician Order for Directed Donation by FAX to the collection center offices.
- **Do not send forms directly to the blood center.** Mail or FAX forms to 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 physician may have your blood type information in existing records. If not, a blood type test may be ordered by your physician.
- **Assign one person** – perhaps the patient – **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 patient's: name, UMHS Registration Number, and birth date. The donor will be asked to provide identifying information to the blood center.

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