

Making Your Autologous and Therapeutic Blood Collection Safe

When you donate your blood for your own use later, usually in surgery, it is called an Autologous Collection.

When your physician prescribes blood withdrawal to improve a medical condition it is called a Therapeutic Collection.

Please read this information before your blood is collected! If you have any questions now or anytime during the screening process, please ask blood center staff. Accuracy and honesty are essential! Your complete honesty in answering all questions is very important for your safety. All information you provide is confidential.

The Collection Process

To determine if you are eligible for an autologous or therapeutic collection, we will:

- Ask for your photo identification.
- Ask questions about your surgery, health, and medications.
- Review the criteria on your current physician's order.
- Take your pulse, blood pressure, and temperature.
- Take a small blood sample to make sure you are not anemic (i.e. to determine your current hemoglobin level).

If you are eligible for collection we will:

- Cleanse your arm with an antiseptic. (If you are allergic to antiseptic, please tell us!)
- Use a new, sterile, disposable needle to collect your blood.

Blood Collection Risks

The risks associated with blood collection include bruising around the needle (more common); a sore arm; feeling lightheaded, tired or weak; fainting (uncommon); injury to arteries, nerves and tissues around the vein used for collection (more rare); and temporary lower blood volume and blood counts.

In addition, you should avoid strenuous activity after the collection. If you experience prolonged light-headed symptoms that are not promptly relieved following collection, you should contact your physician.

FOR AUTOLOGOUS DONORS ONLY: LET'S TALK ABOUT IRON!

Each time you donate blood, your body loses a small amount of iron. Iron is an important component of hemoglobin, the substance in red blood cells that carries oxygen from your lungs to the rest of your body. In order to create oxygen-rich red blood cells, your body must have a healthy level of iron.

Before you donate, we test your blood to ensure you have enough red blood cells to donate safely (some call this "checking your iron"). However, it is possible to have a normal amount of red blood cells, yet still not have enough iron to support other vital organs and tissues in your body (this is called "iron deficiency").



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People who donate blood more frequently experience more significant iron loss and face greater risk for developing iron deficiency than people who donate less often. Iron-deficient people may feel tired, appear pale, and have headaches or trouble breathing, but they may also feel completely fine.

LifeStream encourages all of our AUTOLOGOUS donors to take steps to reduce the risk of iron deficiency. If you are donating for yourself, you should eat a well-balanced diet, but you should also ask your doctor about taking low-dose iron supplements by mouth. Your doctor can also measure your serum "ferritin" to check your body's iron levels, if you are concerned about iron deficiency.

Ask us if you would like further information about iron and blood donation.

What Happens To Your Blood After Your Autologous Collection

LifeStream requires that all autologous donations be made 14 days prior to your surgery.

Your blood is tested for infections that can be passed through the blood, including hepatitis B and C, HIV, syphilis and several others. Additional lab tests for hemoglobin, antibodies, and various conditions may also be performed on your blood. Please understand that sometimes testing cannot be performed because of sample problems.

If infectious disease testing is positive, your blood may not be available for transfusion and may have to be discarded. We will notify you of your results by letter, phone conversation, or occasionally, in person. Your consent today will authorize LifeStream to perform the necessary test and disclose the test results from your blood donation to your physician.

In addition, your blood may not be available for transfusion due to circumstances beyond the control of the donor center. These situations are uncommon, but may include problems with the blood bags, errors or equipment failures during processing, shipment, or storage at the hospital, or surgery postponements beyond the expiration date of the blood. We will notify you and/or your physician should this occur while the blood is in our control.

What Happens To Your Blood After Your Therapeutic Collection

Because your blood is being taken today as a therapeutic treatment, it cannot be used for transfusion and will be discarded. In order to keep your cost for this treatment at a minimum, we will not perform any testing (including infectious disease testing) on the blood from your phlebotomy.

To Arrange An Autologous and Therapeutic Collection

Contact the Medical Services Coordinator.

877-386-6874 (Toll-Free number)

909-386-6817 (fax)