

DIRECTED DONATION PROTOCOL

A Step-By-Step Guide To Directed Blood Donation

Blood donated by directed donors has identical or slightly increased risks to that of allogeneic (banked) blood products. Donors should be chosen based on likelihood that they have low risk behaviors. The ideal directed donation is one where the donor is a match for rare patient antigen type or when patient reassurance is required.

1. PHYSICIAN ORDER:

A physician's order on a LifeStream form entitled **Request for Directed Donor Blood Components** is required prior to collecting blood. A signed request must be sent to LifeStream's Medical Services. **The request/order must include an approved list of donors with the appropriate contact information signed by both the patient and the ordering physician.** This process works best when the physician's office faxes the order form to Medical Services.

2. DOCUMENTATION OF BLOOD TYPE:

To ensure that only donors of a blood type compatible with the patient's are drawn, the order for blood components must include the patient's blood type. The directed donor should present documentation of his/her blood type at the time of service. Donors without documentation should be typed before donating by health care provider. **LifeStream does not provide pre-donation blood typing or CMV testing for directed donors.**

Blood donated by donors whose blood is not a compatible ABO-Rh type will be distributed and billed to the hospital indicated on the request form. **It is the patient and the patient's physician's responsibility to assure compatible donors** as indicated on the **Request for Directed Donor Blood Components**.

3. SCHEDULING THE DONATION:

The preferred time frame of the donation is at least one week before the patient's scheduled surgery. LifeStream needs at least 72 hours to test and prepare the blood and cannot guarantee that it will be available any sooner. Shipments out of the area require at least six business days. Keep in mind expiration dates of components:

- **Irradiated red cells** (All directed units are irradiated. These units expire 28 days after collection).
- **Platelets** expire 5 days after collection.
- **Frozen plasma and cryoprecipitate** expire one year from date of collection.

4. FEES AND BILLING:

LifeStream does not bill private insurance companies

LifeStream contracted customers/hospitals will be billed for Directed blood components or services for Medicare and Worker's Compensation patients.

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

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.

Patients will be responsible for fees for Directed blood components or services not paid for by the hospital.

5. APPOINTMENTS:

Please contact LifeStream's **Medical Services:**

- Toll Free: 877.386.6874
- Fax: 909.386.6817