INFORMATION FOR CLINICIANS

Autologous Donation
What is an autologous donation?
Patients planning elective surgery requiring blood transfusion may be able to donate blood for themselves prior to surgery. The potential benefits and risks depend on: type of surgery, condition of patient and technology available.

Advantage of an autologous donation:
• Prevents transfusion-transmitted disease
• Prevent red cell alloimmunization
• Decreases the number of banked allogeneic units needed
• Provides compatible blood for patients with alloantibodies
• Prevents some adverse transfusion reactions
• Provides reassurance to patients concerned about blood risks

Disadvantages of an autologous donation:
• Does not eliminate risk of ABO incompatibility error
• Increased incidence of adverse reactions by the donor
• Results in waste—if blood is not transfused
• May subject patients to perioperative anemia, increased likelihood of transfusion, and delayed recovery
• There may be a potential charge incurred

Order form and/or script requirements:
• Patient demographics
• Procedure to be performed
• Date of surgery
• Name, address and contact information prescribing of physician
• Number of units needed
• Type of blood product being ordered
• Hospital where surgery will be performed

Donor criteria for an autologous donation:
• Donor must be at least 17 years old—donors under age 17 require parental consent and must be accompanied by a parent/guardian
• Proper photo identification is required to be allowed to donate (e.g school ID with picture and full name, driver’s license and other government-issued ID)
• Weigh at least 110lbs. for normal volume
• Minimum volume is 10 mls per kg of body weight

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I schedule an autologous donation?
• Donors are required to call the Special Donations Department to schedule the appointment at 847.260.2707
• Donors are asked about their medical history and use of medications including antibiotics
• Autologous donors with a history of heart disease or strokes, or donors taking blood thinners must have physician (Cardiologist/Hematologist) approval to donate

What happens if the patient’s procedure is postponed?
In the event the procedure is postponed the Special Donations Department should be notified as soon as possible to prevent expiration and ensure the donor’s blood is available when needed. The patient should also be notified of any changes to the number and/or frequency of the physician recommended autologous donation(s). Inform your patient that they are responsible for contacting the Special Donations Department for any schedule changes.

Will the autologous blood be tested for diseases?
• Yes, all collected blood products are tested according to FDA guidelines
• Autologous units may still be released even if the units test positive for viral markers
• If viral markers are present the ordering physician will be notified first via telephone followed by an official letter from the counseling department to the patient
• The unit will be tagged accordingly prior to delivery to the hospital
• If necessary copies of test results will be sent to you and your physician