

## **Important Facts about Designated Donations**

A Designated Blood Donation, also known as a “directed” donation, is the donation of blood for transfusion into a specific patient. This blood donation must be made with advance time for testing and processing prior to the time of need for the intended patient. All blood donors must meet specific eligibility requirements outlined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Designated donations are not possible for emergency transfusion.

### **Are you aware that the U. S. blood supply today is among the safest in the world?**

Prior to release of blood products for transfusion, screening tests are performed for the following infectious diseases:

HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis, Syphilis, Human T-cell Lymphotropic Viruses

### **You should also be aware of the following:**

- Directed donors are more likely to be first time donors, previously untested for both infectious disease and red cell antibodies. Statistically, these donors are no safer and may be less safe than volunteer donors.
- Transfusions to blood relatives, including parent to child, may increase immune system impairment and may lead to HLA alloimmunization; this could complicate future transplantation for the child.
- Transfusions to a blood relative may increase the risk of Graft Versus Host Disease (GVHD), a fatal complication of transfusion. In order to protect against GVHD, all products for Designated Donation must be irradiated.
- A woman of child bearing age who receives blood donated by her husband or male partner may have an increased risk of complication during future pregnancies. It is possible for a woman receiving a transfusion from her husband or male partner to form antibodies to his red blood cell antigens. Those antibodies could cause Hemolytic Disease of the Newborn (HDN) during a future pregnancy, if the developing baby inherits red blood cell antigens from the father that are not present in the mother. In HDN, antibodies produced by the mother cross the placenta and react with antigen-positive fetal red blood cells, resulting in shortened fetal cell life span. HDN can range in severity from cases with no symptoms to severe cases requiring intrauterine transfusion, red cell exchange transfusion at birth, or early delivery. Some cases of severe HDN may even result in fetal death. The risk of severe HDN is small, but is still much greater than the risk of transfusion associated HIV, estimated at 1 out of every 2,000,000 transfusions, which is often a major concern of individuals requesting designated donations. At the San Diego Blood Bank (SDBB) we strongly recommend that a husband or male partner not donate for his female partner of childbearing age.
- There may be a processing fee for designated donation.
- An alternative for a family would be to donate blood on the patient’s behalf to replenish inventory for blood transfused.

Should you still wish to proceed with a Designated “Directed” Donation, chosen donors must meet all routine donor eligibility requirements including medical history screening and infectious disease testing.

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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR DESIGNATED DONATION:**

**PATIENT/PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST:**

- Review ***Cautionary Notes***
- Complete and sign ***Patient Consent***
- Complete ***Designated Donor List*** of up to 6 donors
- Donations for platelets must occur **72 hours** before transfusion is needed
- Donations for red cells must be completed at least **1 week** prior to scheduled transfusion date

**PHYSICIANS MUST:**

- Review ***Cautionary Notes*** with patient representative
- Complete ***Patient and Transfusion Information*** and ***Physician Information*** on Designated Donation Request form. (fillable forms are available on line)
- Review potential donors on ***Designated Donor List***
- Up to 6 donors may be listed
- Sign and Date the ***Physician Information*** signature section

Patients in our community with different illnesses and disorders or trauma victims need blood transfusions every day. Please consider donating blood to replenish the blood supply for our local community.

**Blood is the most precious gift you can give  
– the gift of life.**

Forms are available at: