Autologous Donation

Autologous donation is when a patient donates his or her own blood, in advance, for upcoming surgery.

The community blood supply from volunteer donors is safer than ever since the development of new testing techniques and careful donor screening. While these greatly reduce the risk of acquiring certain infectious disease, the risks cannot be eliminated entirely. Moreover, some people make antibodies to other people's red blood cells. These antibodies can complicate future transfusions. For these reasons, it is felt that the best blood for most patients is their own.

Autologous Blood Donation Centers

By Appointment Only

CentreMed Donor Center
6201 Centreville Road (Route 28)
Centreville, Virginia 20121
Fax: 703.322.1974

Dulles Donor Center
45745 Nokes Boulevard, Suite 160
Sterling, Virginia 20166
Fax: 571.434.3682

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital
2501 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, Virginia 22306
Fax: 703.664.7434

Woodburn Donor Center
3289 Woodburn Road, Suite 010
Annandale, Virginia 22003
Fax: 703.207.7547

To schedule an appointment at any one of our centers, please call 1.866.BLOODSAVES (866.256.6372) or visit inova.org/donateblood
Talk with Your Physician

Talk with your physician about the type of procedure planned, the amount of blood you may need, and your overall health. Be certain to discuss any previous transfusion problems you may have had, such as the presence of antibodies, difficulty in cross matching, or any transfusion reactions. All these factors are important considerations in transfusion planning.

Specifically, ask your physician about:

- Your surgery date
- Number of units of blood needed
- The need for supplemental iron, especially if several units of blood are needed
- Your medical history, medications, and any concerns that could affect your ability to donate your own blood. You should not donate autologous blood if you have:
  - Anemia
  - An ongoing infection(s)
  - Aortic Valve Stenosis
  - Any recent chest pain due to Coronary Artery Disease

If you have a history of heart problems, please make sure to speak to your physician about autologous donation before your first appointment.

Donation Planning

Once you and your physician have decided that autologous donation is appropriate for you, take the following steps:

1. Obtain a written Request for Autologous Donation from your physician specifying the date of surgery, hospital location, the number of units of blood to be donated, and any other pertinent information included on the form in this brochure. Bring this to your first donation appointment.

2. Verify all information on your Request for Autologous Donation.

3. Secure verbal authorization from your physician, if timing is a factor. Your physician may phone the Request for Autologous Donation to Inova Blood Donor Services personnel, and then fax the written Request for Autologous Donation to 717.434.3682.

4. Call 1.866.BLOODSAVES (866.256.6372) or visit inova.org/donateblood to schedule your donation(s). Autologous donations are taken by appointment only.

The appropriate scheduling of your autologous donation(s) is essential for your personal health and to assure that the blood collected from you is available at the proper time.

Please remember the following:

- Multiple units of blood should be drawn at five to seven day intervals. Units may not be donated more frequently than every three days.
- The last unit must be drawn at least 72 hours before your surgery date, longer if it is to be shipped to a non-Inova hospital.
- Each unit of blood is stored in liquid form and must be used within 42 days.
- Units will be held at the hospital blood bank until you are discharged from the hospital, or until they expire.
- You must notify the blood bank or blood donor center if your surgery is postponed or cancelled.
- Most insurance companies cover all or part of the cost of autologous blood donation.
- Autologous blood cannot be used for other patients.
- All autologous donations are tested for transfusion-transmitted diseases. Should your blood test positive, the physician ordering the blood be will be notified prior to surgery. You will also receive written notification from Inova Blood Donor Services. If your blood tests positive for certain viral markers, it may not be available for transfusion. When autologous blood is not available, you may receive blood from other donors.

The Community Blood Supply

Inova Blood Donor Services is inspected by, and follows regulations set forward by, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and American Association of Blood Banks (AABB). We are proud that our blood donor program incorporates the most up-to-date testing and screening methods to insure that the community blood supply is as safe as modern technology can make it. Before it is given to a patient, every unit of blood collected undergoes extensive testing for:

- Syphilis
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- HTLV IV, II
- HIV 1 and 2
- West Nile Virus
- Trypanosoma Cruzi

Any unit found unsuitable for use is discarded, and the donor is notified. All units of blood drawn must meet the high standards of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), and Inova Blood Donor Services. The system of using properly screened volunteer donors encourages donation by healthy individuals whose only incentive is to serve their community.

To schedule an appointment, please call 1.866.BLOODSAVES (866.256.6372) or visit inova.org/donateblood