

LOCATIONS FOR AUTOLOGOUS DONATIONS

Allen

(214) 509-0550

Arlington

(817) 274-0812

Dallas

Baylor

(214) 217-5676

Preston Road

(972) 980-9210

Fort Worth

Rosedale

(817) 335-4935

Hulen

(817) 263-5810

Garland

(972) 437-4483

Hurst-Euless-Bedford

(817) 283-4787

Longview

(903) 663-2650

Lufkin

(936) 639-1534

Marshall

(903) 935-6571

Mesquite

(972) 270-2185

Mount Pleasant

(903) 572-3629

Paris

(903) 785-9399

Tyler

(903) 363-0400

Waco

(254) 297-4150



Carter BloodCare

carterbloodcare.org

1-800-DONATE-4

AUTOLOGOUS DONATION

Donating Blood For Yourself

*Giving blood for your own use is a decision that will be made by you and your physician. The term for this process is **autologous donation**. The following information is designed to help you make the decision that is right for you.*

Why should I donate for my own surgery?

If you are healthy enough to donate blood, your blood can be the safest blood for you to receive. Receiving your own blood ensures that the blood is compatible and eliminates the risk of most transfusion-related complications.

How do I become an autologous donor?

Your physician must complete and sign an *Autologous Request Form*. Once your form is complete, you may schedule a convenient appointment at a Carter BloodCare Donor Center listed on back. Your age, weight and medical history may determine your eligibility to donate.

How soon should I donate before surgery?

You may donate blood up to 30 days prior to your surgery and no less than five days before your surgery.

How can I be sure that I will receive my own blood? A special identification tag and bar code is attached to your donation to reserve for your use. A special form is also sent to alert your hospital of your donation. Please know that hospitals and physicians do not inform Carter BloodCare of whether or not you required blood. Your physician's office will have this information.

What if my donated units are unused?

Because each autologous donation requires extensive preparation, Carter BloodCare is not able to refund processing and handling fees for

unused units. If the autologous units are not used by the patient, the units will be discarded as required by the FDA.

Why can I donate for myself more often than I can as a regular donor?

Guidelines from the AABB allow autologous donors to donate with lower hemoglobin (red blood cell) levels than regular donors. Your hemoglobin will be checked before each donation. To maintain your hemoglobin, your surgeon may prescribe iron supplements.

Can I donate for myself if I have a history of heart disease or stroke?

Only if your cardiologist or internist complete and sign a *Donor Suitability Release Form*. A Carter BloodCare physician must also consent before blood is collected.

Will you test my blood?

Each donation is tested for infectious diseases such as hepatitis and HIV. If your donation is unsuitable for transfusion, Carter BloodCare will notify you, your physician and the hospital. We will not disclose your donation information to unauthorized individuals or provide confidential information by phone.

I'm a regular blood donor. When can I donate again?

If you received blood, you will not be eligible to donate again for 12 months after your transfusion. If you did not receive blood, you may not donate until six weeks after your surgery, depending on the type of surgery you had.

Answers to Your Insurance Questions

What are special donations? Every blood donation is special for the patient it benefits. However, *special donation* is a term blood centers use in reference to two types of donations.

- **Autologous donation** is the blood you give for yourself before your surgery.
- **Directed donations** are given specifically for you, by blood donors you choose.

Will my health insurance cover autologous donations? Insurance providers typically will not cover the cost for autologous donations that are not transfused. Because insurance plans change frequently, Carter BloodCare cannot confirm insurance coverage. If you are interested in special donations, please contact your insurance provider to learn how your plan manages autologous donation.

Will my insurance plan cover the blood that is taken from the community blood supply? Carter BloodCare provides transfusable blood components from the community blood supply. These units are industry standard and also covered or partially covered by many insurance plans.

If my insurance plan does cover special donations, will Carter BloodCare work directly with my insurance company? Although Carter BloodCare does not work directly with insurance companies, we will provide a receipt of the charges.

Do I need insurance pre-approval or a physician referral to proceed? Although hospitals accept autologous units from Carter BloodCare for patients, they will not confirm

that a patient's insurance plan covers the costs related to them.

To make an autologous donation, you must provide Carter BloodCare with an *Autologous Request Form*, completed and signed by your physician. You can donate Monday through Friday at a Carter BloodCare Donor Center. Appointments must be made by calling (817) 412-5310.

Why would I be charged to make an autologous donation? Autologous donation is considered elective, except under specific circumstances. Because autologous donations require additional processing apart from the community blood supply, donors are charged for processing, collecting, testing, preparation and tracking of each unit. The cost for autologous donation ranges from \$270 to \$300* and is required at the time of donation.

Medicare, Medicaid and Workers' Compensation patients are not required to pay at the time of donation.

Will I pay Carter BloodCare before my donations are made? Yes. Payment for autologous donation is required at the time of donation and is payable to Carter BloodCare via money order, cashier's check or travelers check.

*subject to change

Autologous Blood Donation Checklist

Items to bring with you

- Completed *Autologous Request Form* signed by your physician.
- Donor Suitability Release Form* (required for patients with a history of heart disease, stroke or current pregnancy).
- Proof of Social Security number and a valid photo ID.
- Payment for autologous donation will be required at the time of your visit. Carter BloodCare will accept payment for these services via money order, cashier's check or travelers check.

Getting ready to donate

- Eat a low fat, well-balanced meal within two hours before donation.
- Drink plenty of non-caffeinated, non-alcoholic fluids.
- Allow one hour for your donation appointment for a single donation.
- Allow two hours for your appointment for a double donation.

If you have further questions about autologous donation, please call (817) 412-5310. For general information about blood donation, please call 1-800-DONATE-4 or visit carterbloodcare.org.

Your appointment information

Appointment Date(s) _____

Appointment Time(s) _____

Donor Center/Site

Telephone Number

