Directed donations are given for a specific patient, by blood donors that have been chosen by the patient. The following information is designed to help you determine if directed donation is right for you.

How is a directed donation different from an allogeneic donation? A directed donation is reserved to be used for a specific patient. An allogeneic donation is a voluntary donation made to the community blood supply. Because directed donations must be processed and tracked separately from the community blood supply, directed donors are required to pay a fee at the time of their donation.

How soon should a directed donation be made before surgery? Directed donors should donate no sooner than 14 business days and no less than five business days before the surgery date. Apheresis platelet donors may donate only three days prior to the surgery date. Some exceptions may be arranged, but should be discussed when making an appointment.

Where can directed donations be made? Directed donors can donate Monday through Friday at one of Carter BloodCare’s Donor Centers listed on the back of this brochure. It is best for all directed donors for a specific patient to donate at the same Donor Center. Each directed donor must have an appointment, even if donors plan to donate as a group. Appointments must be made by calling (817) 412 5310.

Will Carter BloodCare test the blood? Each donation is tested for infectious diseases such as hepatitis and HIV. All laboratory testing is performed on blood samples after a donation is made. Units will be processed with other routinely drawn units and will be available to the hospital three to five days after donation.

If a directed donation is unsuitable for transfusion, Carter BloodCare will not disclose information to unauthorized persons. The donor involved will be notified and our Special Donations Department will contact the patient or the patient’s guardian to notify them that the unit will not be available for transfusion.

What if my donated units are unused? Because each directed donation requires extensive preparation, Carter BloodCare is not able to refund processing and handling fees for unused units. If the directed units are not used by the patient, the transfusing hospital, not Carter BloodCare, will determine the disposition of the units.

What about donor confidentiality? Directed donors waive their usual right to donor anonymity; however, medical information pertaining to the directed donor remains confidential.

Only blood type results can be released to the donor by telephone. The individual’s identity must be verified before blood type can be released.
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 surgery.
- Directed donations are given specifically for you, by blood donors you choose.

Will my health insurance cover directed donations? Insurance providers typically will not cover the cost for directed donations. Because insurance plans change frequently, Carter BloodCare cannot confirm insurance coverage. Please contact your insurance provider to learn how your plan manages directed donation.

What costs am I responsible for, if insurance does not cover my units? Directed donation is an elective option that requires additional processing apart from the community blood supply and is not considered medically necessary or safer than regular community volunteer donations. Donors are charged for processing, collecting, testing, preparation and tracking of each donated unit. The cost for directed donation ranges from $90 to $100* and is required at the time of donation. Medicare, Medicaid and Workers’ Compensation patients are not required to pay at the time of donation.

*subject to change.

Directed donor eligibility
- Donors must be 17 or older, in good health and meet all other donor eligibility criteria. Please visit carterbloodcare.org or call 1-800-DONATE-4 for information regarding donor requirements.
- Donors should have the same blood type or be blood type compatible. If pre-storing is required, please call metro (817) 412-5310 for further information.
- Blood donated by blood relatives will be irradiated to prevent graft versus host disease. An additional charge is included for this procedure.
- Female patients of child-bearing age should not receive blood donated by their male partner or any member of the male partner’s family.
- Directed donors will not receive credit for the donation for application to their gallon donor achievements or Life Plan program.
- Donors should drink plenty of non-caffeinated, non-alcoholic fluids and eat a low fat, well-balanced meal within two hours before donation.
- Allow one hour for a donation appointment for a single donation and two hours for a double donation.

Required paperwork
- A completed Request for Directed Donor Form must be signed by the patient and physician and returned to Carter BloodCare. This form can be obtained from the requesting physician or the transfusing hospital’s blood bank.
- A completed Accepted Donor List must also be signed by the patient and returned to Carter BloodCare.
- Directed donors must have a copy of both forms in order to be drawn.
- Directed donors must be prepared to make payment for their donation at the time of donation. Carter BloodCare will accept payment for these services via money order, cashier’s check or travelers check.

Answers to Your Insurance Questions

Directors Donation Checklist
- Required paperwork
  - A completed Request for Directed Donor Form must be signed by the patient and physician and returned to Carter BloodCare. This form can be obtained from the requesting physician or the transfusing hospital’s blood bank.
  - A completed Accepted Donor List must also be signed by the patient and returned to Carter BloodCare.
  - Directed donors must have a copy of both forms in order to be drawn.
  - Directed donors must be prepared to make payment for their donation at the time of donation. Carter BloodCare will accept payment for these services via money order, cashier’s check or travelers check.

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

Carter BloodCare