

The Winter Haven Hospital
Community Blood Center hours are:

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday, and Friday.

8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Saturday.

460 First St. North, Winter Haven, FL 33881

Email: whhbloodcenter@baycare.org

Telephone: 863-297-1840
Fax: 863-291-6704

*FDA Registration # 1073507
U.S. License # 1266*

Autologous Blood Donations

Information for the Patient

 **Winter Haven Hospital**
BayCare Health System

Community Blood Center

Telephone: 863-297-1840

While the community blood supply is extremely safe, a patient's own blood may be safer for him/her. Patients planning elective surgery requiring blood transfusion may be able to donate their own blood. This is called an autologous donation.

To Arrange an Autologous Donation:

- ◆ A written order from your physician is required.
- ◆ Speak to your physician to determine if you are a candidate for this special donation.
- ◆ Once your physician determines your eligibility you or your physician's office may contact the Community Blood Center at 863-297-1840 to schedule an appointment.

Where can I donate?

- ◆ Donations are accepted at the Community Blood Center in Winter Haven on Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

How much blood can I donate?

- ◆ Your physician will determine the number of units required for your elective surgery. Usually it depends on the type of surgery, the date of the scheduled surgery, and your physical condition.

How often will I need to donate?

- ◆ Autologous blood can be donated seven to thirty days prior to your scheduled surgery. If you plan to make multiple donations we prefer that you wait at least one week between donations. All autologous donations must be complete at least three days prior to surgery date.

Preparing to donate . . .

- ◆ Please bring a complete list of all medications to the Community Blood Center.
- ◆ Be sure to drink plenty of water the day before and the day of donation. It may also help to eat a meal within three hours before the donation.

How long is my blood stored?

- ◆ The shelf life of Autologous Red Blood Cells is 42 days. It is kept at the Community Blood Center while it undergoes processing and testing. It is then distributed to your selected hospital until your physician orders it to be transfused.

Why can I donate so often for myself and only once every eight weeks as a regular donor?

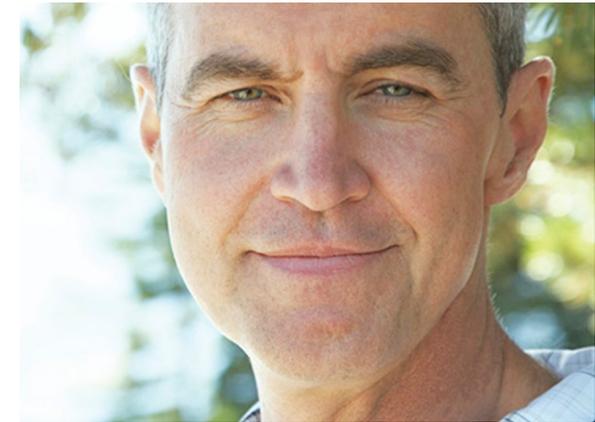
- ◆ Autologous donors are able to donate more frequently than regular blood donors due to the special circumstances of their donation. We have established safe and well defined guidelines to ensure your safety.

Will I become anemic if I donate blood so often?

- ◆ Your body's ability to replace lost red cells is of special concern. Your blood is screened prior to each donation. If the screening indicates that your hemoglobin is below a pre-established level (11 g/dL) your blood will not be collected that day.
- ◆ To decrease your chances of becoming anemic, your physician may prescribe an iron supplement for you to take one to two weeks prior and during your series of Autologous donations.

Other Considerations:

- ◆ Autologous blood is tested for the same transfusion transmitted diseases as regular volunteer donor blood. If any of the tests are positive the results will be reported to your physician and to the transfusing hospital.
- ◆ If your surgery is postponed or cancelled one or more of the units that you donated may expire and have to be discarded.
- ◆ There is the unlikely possibility that through no fault of the Community Blood Center your unit of blood could be lost or damaged during processing.



How do I know that I will receive my own blood?

- ◆ The blood that you donate will be used for you only. It may not be used for other patients.
- ◆ At the time of your donation blood is labeled with your name, date of birth, and social security number, surgery date, etc. These special tags and stickers are reviewed by you for accuracy. The tags are attached to your unit of blood and remain there until after the transfusion.
- ◆ You are also given your unit number after each donation. The hospital will verify your name and identification numbers prior to each transfusion.
- ◆ The Community Blood Center cannot be responsible for autologous donations lost due to mechanical failures beyond our control.