

UCLA

Health

Directed Donation



What is a directed donation?

Patients who may need to receive blood or platelets can ask a friend or relative to donate specifically for them. Blood and platelets collected from these donors is called a directed donation. This directed donation is reserved for the patient as long as it is compatible. If the directed donation is not compatible and therefore not safe for the patient, it will be made available to another patient. In this way, directed donations also help ensure that there are enough blood products for all our patients.



How can a directed donation be made?

To allow directed donations, the UCLA Health care team must provide a completed “Autologous/Directed Donation Request” form to the UCLA Health Blood & Platelet Center. The patient should speak with a member of their care team to complete this form. The UCLA Health Blood Bank will make sure you receive the blood products you need, whether or not you choose to have directed donors. The UCLA Health Blood Bank routinely stocks blood products collected from volunteer community donors. These blood products are available to all patients who need them.

How safe are directed donations?

Directed donations are sometimes thought to be safer than volunteer community donations; however, there is no scientific information that shows this is true. Units from both directed and community donors are screened and tested (in the same way) for diseases that can be transmitted by blood, including different kinds of hepatitis, HIV, syphilis and other viruses.

Additional safety restrictions:

- If the person receiving blood is female and of childbearing age, the blood donor cannot be the husband or boyfriend of the patient, as blood from a husband or boyfriend could complicate future pregnancies.
- Biological mothers of patients cannot be directed donors, as biological mothers may have antibodies that could harm the patient.

What does the directed donor need to do?

A directed donor should call the UCLA Health Blood & Platelet Center at 310-794-7207 to make an appointment at least 3 days before the day the blood products need to be given. All directed donors will be asked to provide the name and date of birth or medical record number of the patient.

Who can give a directed donation?

Donors must meet all required donation standards. For a list of requirements to donate, please visit uclahealth.org/programs/gotblood/donate-blood/eligibility

or scan the QR Code:



What about directed donor apheresis blood?

Some people, especially those receiving chemotherapy or having heart surgery, need apheresis blood. For example, if a doctor orders platelets, directed donations by friends and relatives are encouraged. Platelets can be stored for 5 days. It is best to donate platelets 3 days before the scheduled procedure and transfusion. Platelets are collected by apheresis, which uses a medical device to separate the donor's blood, collect the platelets, and return the remaining blood to the donor. A directed donor may give platelets every 7 days or up to 24 times in a 12-month period.

Platelet donors must also:

- Have a vein that can be accessed in at least one arm.
- Have not taken aspirin or aspirin-containing products in the last 3 days.
- Have a blood test to check for HLA antibodies if the donor has ever been pregnant. HLA antibodies are not harmful to you as the donor. However, HLA antibodies can cause harm to a patient receiving the blood product. Donors positive for HLA antibodies may only donate whole blood.
- Please allow about 2.5 to 3 hours for the apheresis donation process.

How soon should the donations be made?

- For babies younger than 4 months old, donations must be made 10 days or less before the blood product is needed. These donations are usually available to be given 3 days after the blood is collected, if the blood product tests negative for infectious diseases.
- For adults and children having surgery, it is recommended that directed donations of whole blood be made 1 to 3 weeks before surgery.

How often can a unit of blood be donated?

Blood can be donated once every 56 days or 8 weeks.

How many directed donation units will be available?

Only the number of units requested by the doctor will be available to use. Please remember that not all donors may be eligible to donate, and some donated units may not be available because they were not compatible or did not pass testing requirements. Donor screening and testing results are confidential and given only to the donor.

What if there are not enough directed donors to meet the patient's needs?

If there are not enough qualified directed donors or if more blood products are ordered by the patient's doctor, this blood will be provided by the UCLA Health Blood Bank from volunteer community donors.

How long will directed donation units be saved for a specific patient?

Directed donor blood units are saved until 5 days before the blood unit expires. Directed donor platelet units are released at noon on the day they expire. Then they are automatically released for other patients to use.

In what order will reserved units be used?

The order in which directed units are used depends on the blood type and date that the unit expires.

Location and parking

Our Westwood Village center is located at 1045 Gayley Ave., two blocks north of Wilshire Boulevard between Kinross and Weyburn avenues.

We provide parking near our center.

We do not validate parking for any of the public lots.

When you call for an appointment, please discuss the parking options, or visit our website for details.

Blood & Platelet Center

Westwood Village:

1045 Gayley Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024

Phone: [310-794-7207](tel:310-794-7207)

Email: gotblood@mednet.ucla.edu

Website: uclahealth.org/gotblood



Stroke survivor and family remain optimistic following tragic event.

Katherine Arnold Wolf was enjoying a successful modeling and acting career in California. Her husband, Jay, was finishing a law degree, and their infant son was thriving. But everything changed when Katherine suffered an arteriovenous malformation rupture at the base of her brain. After a 16-hour surgery that required 10% of UCLA's blood resources, Katherine and Jay described her hard-fought survival as a "miracle."

"We are eternally grateful for all UCLA has meant and continues to mean to us. The UCLA Blood Bank is certainly near the top of our list of things that we all take for granted but are unbelievably thankful to have access to when we need it. Without such a readily available supply of blood, Katherine would very likely not be here today."

-- Jay Wolf, husband

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