

Autologous donation is a special donation service provided by LifeServe Blood Center that allows patients to donate blood for their own upcoming elective surgery.

Depending on an individual's physical condition and the scheduled date of the surgery, it is possible to safely donate and store one or more units of an individual's blood for use at the time of their operation.

Autologous Donation



It's Achievement.

It's Service.

It's Community.

It's being a Blood Donor.

Contact Us

800.287.4903

www.lifeservebloodcenter.org



Can anyone donate for his or her own planned surgery?

In general, anyone able to undergo major surgery may safely and easily donate their own blood. However, not everyone will qualify. A person with anemia or an infection may not be able to donate. People with heart, lung or kidney problems also may not be able to donate for themselves. Other limiting factors include the number of units required, how soon the surgery is scheduled and the general health of the patient.

How do I arrange an Autologous blood donation?

To arrange an Autologous donation you must speak with your surgery physician to determine if you are a candidate for this special donation. Once your physician determines your eligibility, simply contact LifeServe Blood Center at 800.287.4903 to schedule an appointment.

Information you will need to have ready before calling The Blood Center

- Social Security Number
- Date of Birth
- Physician Order
- Surgeon's Name
- Surgery Date – *please note that you may not make an Autologous appointment until your surgery date is confirmed.*
- Location of surgery
- Number of units of blood ordered

Where can I donate my Autologous donation?

LifeServe Blood Center offers Autologous donation appointments at various locations in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. Appointment days and times vary. Please discuss with a LifeServe Blood Center staff member a location, date and time that works best for you to donate your own blood.

How much blood may I donate before my surgery?

Your surgeon, along with LifeServe Blood Center's Medical Director, will determine the number of units required for your elective surgery. Usually, it depends on your physical condition, the type of surgery and the date of the scheduled surgery.

How often will I need to donate?

Donations can be made three to forty-two days prior to the scheduled surgery. If you plan to make multiple donations, LifeServe Blood Center prefers that you wait at least one week between donations. Your blood is stored at LifeServe Blood Center while it undergoes processing and testing. It is then delivered to your selected hospital where it remains until your surgeon orders it to be transfused.

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

Autologous blood donors are able to donate more frequently than regular blood donors due to the special circumstances of their donation.

LifeServe Blood Center has established safe and well defined guidelines in accordance with the American Association of Blood Banks' Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services and the Food and Drug Administration. Your physician may review these standards by contacting LifeServe Blood Center at 800.287.4903.



Will I become anemic if I donate blood before my surgery?

Your body's ability to replace lost red cells is of special concern. Therefore, your blood is screened before each donation. If the screening test indicates that your red blood cell level is below a pre-established level (a 33 percent hematocrit), your blood will not be collected that day.

To decrease your chances of becoming anemic, LifeServe Blood Center recommends that your surgeon prescribe an iron and vitamin supplement for you to take one-to-two weeks prior to and during the time of your series of Autologous donations.

How do I know I will receive my own blood?

At the time of each donation, your unit of blood is labeled with your name and social security number. 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.

Is there a charge?

There is never a charge for blood. However, there are processing fees associated with each unit to cover the collection, testing, and processing of the blood. These fees are charged directly to the hospital, then typically passed along to the patient. Autologous units are only available for the patients who donated them and cannot be returned to the general blood supply if they are not used.

