

# Blood Donor Center - Directed Donor Program



A directed donor is a person who donates their blood to a specific person. The Directed Donor Program lets directed donors choose who will get their donations.

## Are there benefits to getting direct donations?

There is no scientific information that shows it is better to get blood products from a direct donor. Research does show there may be a higher chance of getting certain infectious diseases (virus or bacteria) from direct donations. This risk is less with volunteer community donations.

## Who decides if a patient should have a blood transfusion?

The patient's doctor will decide if they need a blood transfusion during treatment or surgery. Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) Blood Donor Center is always looking for volunteer donors. The volunteer donations are welcome for all patients who need blood transfusions.

## What is the process for directed donations?

If you would like your child to get directed donations:

- Contact the CHLA Blood Donor Center
- The legal guardian must complete the *Directed Donor/Autologous Donation Request* form.

## What are the requirements to be a directed donor?

- Directed donors have the same requirements as volunteer donors. Contact CHLA Blood Donor Center for more details.
- Directed donors need an appointment for a directed donation. The donor must give the below information:
  - Patient's full name
  - Patient's date of birth or Medical Record Number (MRN)
- Donors must donate at least **five days** before the patient has the treatment/ surgery.

## What happens to donated blood?

- The Blood Donor Center tests the blood to make sure it meets quality and regulatory standards before it can be used.
- The directed donor's blood is saved for the specific patient.
- Directed blood donations can be used for other patients if:
  - The chosen patient does not need a blood transfusion anymore.
  - The donor's blood type does not match with the patient's blood type.
  - There is a medical reason why the patient cannot receive the blood.
  - The blood unit is about to expire.
  - Another patient needs the blood to save their life.

## What if the date of surgery or transfusion is postponed?

It is the family's responsibility to let the Blood Donor Center know right away if the date of surgery or transfusion changes. If you do not let the Blood Donor Center know of the change, they may give the directed donor units to another patient.

For more information on blood donation, please contact the CHLA Blood Donor Center at:

- (323) 361-2441
- Visit <https://www.chla.org/blood-donor-center>

## Blood Donor Center

4650 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90027 | CHLA.org

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