

General information

- A directed donation is a blood donation reserved for the exclusive use of a recipient who is known to the donor.
- Héma-Québec offers directed donations only upon receipt of a physician's request. This type of donation can only be made at a GLOBULE center.

Directed donations have not been proven any safer than anonymous donations. In fact it may just be less safe than an anonymous donation. Directed donations significantly decrease the confidentiality of the blood donation since the donor is known to the recipient. In such context, donors can feel obliged to make a donation and may neglect to disclose their at-risk behaviors, symptoms of transmissible diseases or travel history that could endanger the recipient's health. Also, because of an increased risk of a complication known as graft versus host disease, the donation must be irradiated. This process increases the level of potassium in the blood bag which may pose a risk especially to young children. .

Donor eligibility

- To be able to donate, you must meet Héma-Québec's usual donor eligibility criteria.
- You must also fill out a health questionnaire and you will be asked questions about at-risk behavior for transmissible diseases and travel history...
- Your blood will undergo the same screening tests for transmissible diseases as those done for regular blood donations. Should any of these tests come back positive, your blood will not be used and you will no longer be able to donate blood.
- A pregnant woman or a woman of childbearing age cannot receive directed donations from her spouse because of the risk of alloimmunization (formation of antibodies dangerous to the baby's health) during a subsequent pregnancy.
- Children who receive blood components from their father, mother or a close relative run an increased risk of graft-versus-host reaction. Irradiating the blood before transfusion helps reduce the risk of such a reaction but, as already mentioned, this process increases the level of potassium in the blood bag and may pose a risk to certain recipients
- Your general health-status must be examined by the physician.
- The recipient's physician should explain to you the nature of directed donations, the associated risks and inform you of other available alternatives.
- For further information on donor eligibility criteria, please contact Donor Services at 1-800-847-2525.

Donation(s)

- **Héma-Québec will contact you** to make an appointment once the following documents are received:
- The directed donation's request from the physician
 - The results of the requested analyses

A minimum of 3 working days between the donation and the surgery date is required; should several donations be necessary, a delay of 7 days between each donation will be required.

- The recipient's physician may prescribe an iron supplement to be taken before and during the collection period.
- It is important that you bring identification (driver's license or health insurance card) to each appointment.
- At the first appointment, you will be asked to sign a directed donation consent form, you will also be asked to sign a blood donation consent form at each appointment.
- After each donation, Héma-Québec will give you a pink card, which you must give to the recipient's nurse (at the hospital) so that the patient can receive your blood.
- Your donations cannot be transfused to anyone other than the designated recipient. If they are not used, they will be destroyed.

**If you are unable to keep your appointment
or
for more information related to directed donations,
please contact Héma-Québec:**

**Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
(514) 832-5000, ext. 404
or 1-877-359-2886**

Fax : 514-527-7900

Web: www.hema-quebec.qc.ca

Référence : PFN-00286