

### General information

- Directed donations are blood donations 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 centre.

**Directed donations have not been proven any safer than donations from anonymous donors. Actually they may pose an increased risk to recipients.** Directed donations considerably decrease the confidentiality related to the act of donating blood since the donor is known to the recipient. In such situations, donors may feel obliged to make a donation and may fail to disclose their at-risk behaviors, symptoms of transmissible diseases or travel history which, if reported, would exclude them from donating blood. Furthermore, because of an increased risk of graft versus host disease from a donation made by a relative, directed donations must be irradiated. This increases the level of potassium in the blood bag, posing a risk for recipients, especially young children.<sup>1</sup>.

**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.**

### Physician's responsibilities

- Respect the requirements of directed donations pursuant to the Canadian National Standard CAN/CSA-Z902.
- Informed the hospital blood bank.
- Make sure that the hospital is in a position to irradiate the product.
- Inform both donor and recipient of the risks involved in any transfusion, as well as specific risks involved in directed donations and alternative treatments.
- Complete all sections of the form *Physician's Request for Directed Donation* (ENR-00819 (SCP-ENR-151.2)) or any equivalent form issued by the hospital TRACELINE system.
- Obtain from the hospital the tests results on both donor and recipient: determination of ABO and Rh groups, antibody screening, cross-compatibility matching and CMV (if requested).
- Inform both donor and recipient that if the quantity of blood needed during the intervention exceeds the quantity available from the directed donation, or if other types of blood components are needed, it may be necessary to transfuse blood from anonymous donors.
- Inform the donor of any abnormal result on screening tests for transmissible diseases.
- Give donor the *Information About Directed Donations* (SPE-00283).

### Donor eligibility

- Female donors, having Rh negative blood, who have received the anti-D immunoglobulin (for example: WinRho) are not eligible to give blood for a period of 12 months following the injection date.
- A pregnant woman or woman of childbearing age cannot receive directed donations from her spouse because of the risk of alloimmunization 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 this reaction.
- The physician requesting the directed donation must evaluate the donor's general health condition. The donor must be able to tolerate repeated venous punctures without risk.
- Donors of directed donations must meet the same eligibility criteria as donors of allogenic donation, with some exceptions.
- Each donation will undergo the usual screening tests. Any donation that is non-compliant or comes back positive on a screening test will not be made available for transfusion. If any donation in a series of donations comes back positive on a screening test, all donations collected previously will be destroyed and Héma-Québec will stop the collections.
- For more information on eligibility criteria, please contact Donor Services at 1-800-847-2525.

### Appointment with the donor

Once the request for directed donations has been approved, **Héma-Québec will contact** the donor to make an appointment.

### Iron supplements

The recipient's physician may prescribe an iron supplement to the donor one week before the first collection and up to eight weeks after the last.

### Unused donations

Any directed donation not transfused to the intended recipient will be destroyed.

**If a surgery is cancelled or if a patient is transferred to another hospital,  
Héma-Québec and the hospital blood bank must be informed immediately.**

<sup>1</sup>. Adams F, Bellairs G, Bird AR, Oguntibeju OO. Biochemical storage lesions occurring in nonirradiated and irradiated red **blood** cells: a brief review. Biomed Res Int. 2015;2015:968302. doi: 10.1155/2015/968302. Review.

## PHYSICIAN INFORMATION ABOUT DIRECTED DONATIONS

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For more information about directed donations, please contact Héma-Québec:

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

**Fax: (514) 527-7900**

Web: [www.hema-quebec.qc.ca](http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca)

References: ENR-00819  
PFN-00286  
SPE-00283