



Date: July 5, 2016

To: Hospital Blood Bank Supervisor

From: Bruce A. Lenes, M.D. and Juan A. Merayo-Rodriguez, M.D., Medical Directors

Re: Autologous and Directed Blood Donations for Patients

LifeSouth Community Blood Centers offers you and your patients a safe and reliable blood supply regardless of whether the component is collected under our volunteer allogeneic, pre-operative autologous, or directed donor programs.

The programs are designed to be simple, easy to use, and convenient for donors, patients and physicians. Our policies and order forms are available on our website at www.lifesouth.org. We can also provide educational materials for your staff and patients, if requested.

The Autologous Donor Program:

An autologous donation is a blood donation made by the patient for his/her own use at an upcoming surgery or procedure. Pre-operative autologous donations are usually used for patients undergoing bilateral joint replacements (hip or knee), revision of prior joint replacement, repeat cardiac procedures, complex (more than 4 levels) spinal surgeries, and a few other medical conditions.

The Directed Donor Program:

A directed donation is a blood donation made at the request of the patient or patient's legal guardian for use by that specific patient. Please note, directed donations from parent to child (neonate) with immune-mediated hemolysis or thrombocytopenia due to maternal antibodies to paternal antigens is usually contraindicated.

Autologous and directed donations are not necessarily medically based requests and often are made because of emotional issues surrounding the unfounded fear of using allogeneic blood. The literature shows these donations are not safer than the volunteer donor blood supply.

To Participate:

To order an autologous or directed donation for a patient, complete the appropriate order form posted online at www.lifesouth.org under the "Our Hospitals" tab.

If you have questions about our programs or have concerns about donor or patient participation, please contact our Medical Directors at **1-888-795-2707**.