

Important Notes on Therapeutic Phlebotomy Orders

Reference Document

Use this information to educate donors on the process for therapeutic phlebotomies.

Prior to Therapeutic Donations

- A patient must weigh over 110lbs, have normal vital signs, and be in otherwise healthy and stable condition for a therapeutic phlebotomy order to be approved.
- The order must be completed by a physician or advanced practice provider. Physicians should not write prescriptions for themselves or immediate family members.
- When a patient has a need for therapeutic phlebotomy, the [Therapeutic Phlebotomy Order](#) form must be filled out prior to their visit to a donation center. Donors that arrive at a LifeSouth location without this form filled out by their care provider **will not qualify** for therapeutic donation.
- Some patients will require therapeutic phlebotomies in order to treat chronic conditions, such as Hereditary Hemochromatosis or Testosterone Replacement Therapy (TRT). In such predictable cases, it is important to prescribe therapeutic phlebotomy before the need becomes urgent, to place less stress on the potential donor.
- Patients enrolled in this program are indefinitely deferred from allogeneic (volunteer) blood donation. Removal of this deferral requires documentation from their provider that medical treatment through blood donation is no longer required for their condition.

Note

*Patients with **Hereditary Hemochromatosis** or **Secondary Polycythemia due to TRT** may be evaluated by allogeneic donation qualification criteria, and their products used for subsequent transfusion. Eligible patients with sufficient hemoglobin levels may be accepted for donation every eight weeks or as indicated by the Therapeutic Phlebotomy Order form, whichever is more frequent.*

After Therapeutic Donations

- Once a donor is indicated to be a therapeutic donor in LifeSouth's system, they are ineligible to have allogeneic phlebotomies for one year.
- The therapeutic phlebotomy order must be updated annually.
- For cases where a donor once again qualifies as an allogeneic donor (if they stop taking testosterone, for example), they must have a note from their care provider explaining this. Otherwise, LifeSouth's records will still indicate that the donor does not qualify.