November 18, 2013

Dear Physicians,

Welcome to the American Red Cross Special Collections Program!

Here at the Red Cross, our Special Collections staff is ready and available to meet your patient's needs for autologous and directed collections. We are delighted that you have decided to partner with us and we look forward to making your patient's experiences as pleasant as possible. You can rest assured that the compassionate care and attention we provide to all of our donors will be extended to each individual who utilizes us for their special collections needs.

The process for autologous donations begins when our office receives a signed and completed Special Collection Order from the patient’s physician. The paperwork must be received by our office 16 working days prior to the transfusion date to ensure that the unit will be delivered in time for surgery. The patient is then contacted by a scheduler from our office and asked to complete a health history to verify that the patient is eligible to participate in the program. The scheduler will then schedule the appropriate number of appointments based on the required number of units, per the doctor’s order. Autologous donations may occur every three days.

For directed donations, physicians should determine the quantity and types of products needed, arrange the blood typing of the patient, complete the special collections form and initiate the request by faxing the form to the Red Cross Special Collections Department. This should occur at least 16 working days before transfusion. A scheduler will then contact the patient or other family member to obtain additional information and the names of potential donors.

Once potential donors have been identified, we will collect units of blood from those who meet donor criteria, irradiate directed donations from any blood relative and distribute acceptable units to the hospital where the transfusion is scheduled. We will also inform the patient or their advocate of the number of available units. To protect donor confidentiality, we will not disclose information regarding the availability of a specific donor’s unit.

We endeavor to make the special collections process as simple as possible. For questions about our Special Collections services, please contact us at:

Physicians/Hospitals Line: 1-888-808-4918
Patient Line: 1-800-634-9069
Fax: 585-760-5889

Nicole Chipembere
Scheduling Supervisor, Special Collections Management
585-760-5797 (office)
Thank you for allowing the Red Cross Special Collections Program to work with your healthcare team. We look forward to providing you and your patients with outstanding service.

Sincerely,

P. Dayand Borge, Jr.

P. Dayand Borge, Jr. M.D., Ph.D.
Medical Director
Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region
American Red Cross Blood Services
Autologous/Directive Donors Collection Process

The process for autologous and directed donations begins with our office receiving a signed and completed Special Collections Order from the patient’s physician. The 1-page form is to be faxed to our Special Collections Dept at 585-760-5889.

The paperwork must be received at our office 16 working days prior to the transfusion date to ensure that the unit will be delivered in time for the surgery and that the patient will have time to replenish their blood volume.

Next the patient is contacted by a scheduler from our office and asked to complete a health history to verify that the patient is eligible to participate in the program. The scheduler will schedule the patient 1 month out to come to one of ARC’s special collection locations that are available to them.

The coordinator will then schedule the appropriate number of appointments based on the required number of units per the doctor’s order. Autologous donations may occur every 3 to 4 days. The patient is told to bring their picture ID (drivers license) with them and drink fluids for 2 days prior and not to skip any meals.

The form needs to be filled out items A-D.
A- Patient Information
B- Donation type and number of requested units on corresponding line
D- Surgeon (ordering physician) name, phone and fax number. Only the physician can sign the order. Please enter the transfusion service/hospital information and transfusion surgery date.

The blood comes into the region’s manufacturing dept. and Order Management ships out to the hospital. If we can set it up to go with your standing order delivery we will.

Contact Information Special Collections Management:
Physicians/Hospitals Line: 1-888-808-4918
Patient Line: 1-800-634-9069
Fax: 585-760-5889
Nicole Chipembere, Supervisor 585-760-5797

If more Special Collection Order Forms are needed, please go to the following website to print a copy of the Special Collections Order: www.redcrossblood.org
Open the “donating blood” block, left side of page open “Types of Donations”, open “Autologous”, than download and print our “Special Order Form” for Autologous Donations.
Directed Donations: What the hospital needs to know

American Red Cross Blood Services

- Obtains health history information and schedules appointments for the selected donors.
- Collects units of blood from donors who meet donor criteria.
- Identifies each unit as a directed donation with a patient information tag.
- Irradiates directed donations from any blood relative.
- Distributes acceptable units to hospital where transfusion is scheduled.
- Charge donors a special handling fee if applicable.
- Informs the patient or their advocate of the number of units available. Information regarding the availability of a specific donor’s unit will not be provided to protect the donor’s confidentiality.

The Hospital

- Performs blood typing for patient and donors, if requested.
- Processes directed units into their inventory.
Directed Donations: What Physicians Need To Know

Most of your patients who need a blood transfusion are not in a position to choose their own blood donors. In these cases, please assure them that the Red Cross takes extensive measures to make certain that the community blood supply is as safe as possible.

However, some of your patients who anticipate having surgery or a planned transfusion may want to choose their blood donors. When feasible for planned surgery, their best choice would be an autologous donation.

When an autologous donation is not an option for them, we offer a procedure called a directed blood donation. Below are the recommended steps for your patients who choose directed blood donations:

The Physician

- Determines if the patient is eligible for directed donation. Patients are eligible if they:
  - Understand the minimal risks associated with receiving blood from the community blood supply and understand that these risks are not necessarily diminished by directed blood donations.
  - Have a surgery or planned transfusion scheduled.
  - Have enough time before their need for transfusion to allow for at least 16 working days before date of use. Longer time may be required to deliver the blood to a more distant hospital.

- Determines the quantity and type of products needed.
- Understands that directed donations from any blood relative must be irradiated to reduce the risk of Graft vs. Host disease.
- Determines that the donor is not the husband (male partner) of a female patient in childbearing years. This is due to the potential for alloimmunization, or the development of antibodies, which could cause complications in future pregnancies.
- Arranges the blood typing and antibody screening of patient. Potential donors have documentation of a reliable blood type, e.g., donor card or laboratory report.
- Completes the Special Collection Order Form.
- Initiates the request by faxing the form to the American Red Cross. A coordinator will contact the patient or other family member to obtain additional information and the names of potential donors.