

New
York
Hospital
Queens

**There is
No Blood
Safer
Than Your Own.**

Donating blood for yourself prior to
your surgery is known as
Autologous Blood Donation.



The Autologous Blood Program
New York Hospital Queens
Blood Donor Center

(718) 670-1007

What is Autologous Blood Donation?

Autologous donation is “pre-donating” one or more units of your own blood, to be reserved for you in case you need a transfusion. How many times you donate depends upon how many units of blood your physician would like us to have on hand for your surgery or procedure. Most patients donate between one and three units of blood, with each donation given about one week apart.

Why do patients give Autologous Blood?

The safest blood is your own blood. There are many benefits to donating your own blood, and it is safe and well tolerated. Since you will be receiving your own blood back during transfusion, there is practically no risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Autologous blood donation also minimizes the risk of reactions that can come from receiving blood from other people, such as hives. In the rare case that you require a very specific type of blood for your surgery, due to the presence of rare or multiple antibodies, this procedure ensures the immediate availability of blood. Finally, participating patients report a sense of satisfaction from giving their own donation.

What if I have never donated blood before?

For many of our patients, the first time they have given blood is an autologous donation.

Can all patients give autologous blood?

--Almost any adult anticipating surgery can participate in this program—there are no age limits. A minimum body weight of 110 pounds is preferred. For some types of heart disease, a clearance note from your internist or cardiologist may be needed.

--Older children can also give autologous blood, with approval by their pediatrician. This is usually done on children who weigh at least 80 pounds, but exceptions can be made.

--Most pregnant women can give autologous blood, with approval by their obstetrician. This is usually done after week 36 of pregnancy.

Who cannot give autologous blood?

Patients with systemic infections, certain serious cardiac problems, or anemia (hemoglobin less than 11 gm%) are generally not eligible to participate. Our Blood Donor

Center staff will be happy to answer any questions you might have about restrictions.

There are other forms of autologous blood, other than pre-donating units of your own blood. This includes the use of a 'Cell Saver' machine during your surgery. Your physician will be able to give you additional information about this and other 'bloodless surgery' techniques.

What will happen when I give Autologous Blood?

Like a regular blood donation, an Autologous donation is divided into four parts:

1. **Registration** – We ask you to provide some basic information such as your name, address, and age. Your physician will need to complete the form 'Physician Authorization for Autologous Donation', which specifies your scheduled date of surgery.
2. **Mini-Medical** – First, a medical history is taken. We will need to know your current medications. Then a drop of blood is taken from your fingertip to check your blood hemoglobin level. Lastly, your pulse, blood pressure and temperature are checked.
3. **Donation** – The actual donation of a pint of blood usually takes five to ten minutes. A member of our experienced donor staff will be with you at all times. At the time of your donation, a green tag will be attached to your blood unit, identifying it with your name, the date of your surgery, and the name of your surgeon.
4. **Refreshments** – We have you rest for 10 to 15 minutes in the donor chair, with juice and cookies, before you continue your normal activities.

How long can my Autologous Blood be stored?

With the system used at New York Hospital Queens, blood can be stored for 35 to 42 days. We will keep your Autologous blood unit(s) reserved for your exclusive use until you are discharged from the hospital, or until the blood expiration date, whichever comes first. If you do not use your Autologous blood, it will be discarded.

While New York Hospital Queens Blood Bank will try to make every reasonable effort to ensure that you will receive your own blood, this cannot be guaranteed since there are rare circumstances under which your blood unit(s) may not be available.

How do I arrange for Autologous Donation?

If you are interested in this program, please talk to your surgeon, and ask that a Physician's Authorization Form be completed. Please call the New York Hospital Queens Blood Donor Center at (718) 670-1007 to make the necessary appointments for your donations.

Also, if you have known heart disease, please call the Blood Donor Center and ask to speak with one of our staff. We will be happy to answer any questions you might have about getting a clearance note from your cardiologist or internal medicine physician. This will save you time at your first donation appointment.

**Physician's Authorization for Autologous
Donation form --**

**This form is available at the Blood Donor
Center and at most physician offices.**

**Due to the special handling required, a fee
will be charged prior to your Autologous
donation. This fee is covered by most health
insurance plans.**

**Autologous donations are taken by
appointment only. For an appointment,
please call:
(718) 670 - 1007**

**NYHQ Blood Donor Center Hours:
Monday, Thursday, Friday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM+
(Last donor registered at 4:00 PM)**

**Tuesday and Wednesday
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
(Last donor registered at 8:00 PM)**

**New York Hospital Queens
Blood Donor Center
(8th Floor South, off Red Elevators)
56-45 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355-5095**

Telephone: (718) 670-1007 Fax: (718) 661-7977