

Directed Blood Donor



How many lives
will **U** save?



What is directed donor blood?

Patients who may need a transfusion can ask a friend or relative to donate blood specifically for them. Blood from these donors is called directed donor blood. This blood is reserved for the intended patient, provided it is “blood type compatible.” If the directed donor’s blood is not compatible, and therefore not safe for the patient, the directed donation will be made available for another patient. In this way, directed donor units also help ensure that there is an adequate blood supply for all our patients.

Does a patient need directed donor blood?

The decision to use directed donations in place of volunteer community blood donations should be made after discussing the patient's blood requirements with his or her UCLA physician. The UCLA Blood Bank will meet the patient's transfusion needs whether or not he or she chooses to have directed donors. The UCLA Blood Bank routinely stocks units of blood collected from volunteer community donors. This blood is available to all patients who need a transfusion.

Are there extra charges for directed donor blood?

No, there are no additional charges to the patient or the donor for directed donor blood if the donation is collected and processed at UCLA.

How safe is directed donor blood?

While directed donations are sometimes perceived to be safer than blood collected from volunteer community donations, there is no current scientific information that suggests this is true. Units from both directed and community donors are screened and tested in exactly the same way for diseases that can be transmitted by blood, including but not limited to different kinds of hepatitis, HIV, HTLV-I/II and syphilis.

What does the directed donor need to do?

A directed donor should call the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center at 310-794-7207 to schedule an appointment no less than three days before the scheduled transfusion. All donors need to show a photo ID prior to donating blood.

Who can give a directed donation?

Donors must meet all required blood donation standards:

- Be at least 17 years old, or, if under the age of 17, have parental consent. There is no upper age limit.
- Weigh at least 110 pounds.
- Be in good health.
- Have no fever, cold, flu, sore throat or any other infection on the day of donation.
- Have not taken antibiotics for an infection in the last 3 days.
- Have no history of hepatitis B or hepatitis C.
- If a male, has not had sex with another man in the past 3 months.
- Not traveled to malaria-risk areas in the past 3 months.
- In the past 3 months, have not used needles to take, drugs, steroids, or anything else, unless prescribed by your doctor.
- Not had a non-sterile needle stick/body piercing in the past 3 months
- If male, cannot be the husband or boyfriend of the patient, if female recipient is of childbearing age (blood from a husband or boyfriend could complicate future pregnancies).



In addition to the preceding requirements, platelet donors must also meet the following:

- Have a good vein in at least one arm.
- Have not taken aspirin, or aspirin-containing products in the last 3 days.
- Female donors with history of pregnancy require HLA antibody testing. HLA antibodies pose absolutely no risk to you. However, if transfused to another person HLA antibodies can cause a rare but very serious complication in the transfusion recipients. Donors negative for HLA antibodies may become platelet donors; however donors positive for antibodies may donate whole blood.
- Must be willing to allow approximately 2½ hours for the entire donation process.

For a complete list of requirements and to make an appointment to donate, please call 310-794-7207 or visit: uclahealth.org/gotblood



How often can a unit of blood be donated?

Blood can be donated once every 56 days (eight weeks).

How soon should the donations be made?

For babies less than 4 months old, donations must be made 10 days or less before the scheduled date of surgery. Units are usually available for transfusion three days after donation, provided they test negative for infectious diseases. For adults and pediatric patients having surgery, it is recommended that directed donations for red blood cells be made one to three weeks before surgery.

How many directed donor units will be reserved?

Only the number of units requested by the physician will be held in reserve. Remember that not all donors may be eligible to donate, and some donated units may not be available because they were not compatible or did not pass testing requirements. Donor screening and testing results are confidential and given only to the donor.

What if enough directed donors can't be recruited to meet the patient's needs?

If an adequate number of qualified donors for the patient's transfusion needs cannot be recruited, or if additional blood or blood components are ordered by the patient's physician, the additional units will be provided by the UCLA Blood Bank from volunteer community donors.





How long can blood be stored?

National standards dictate the maximum time a unit of blood can be stored. Whole blood is separated into red blood cells (RBCs) and frozen plasma (FP). RBCs are stored for 21 to 42 days, depending on the collection system used. FP is kept frozen for one year. Some processing steps and special modifications requested by doctors can shorten these storage times.

How long will directed donor units be reserved for a specific patient?

Directed donor units (RBCs and/or FP) are held until five days before the RBC unit expires. Then, they are automatically released to the general supply for other patients to use.



In what order will reserved units be used?

Autologous units (collected when a patient donates his or her own blood) are transfused first. Directed donor units are used next. The order in which directed units are used is determined by the blood type and unit expiration only.



What about directed donor platelets?

Some patients, especially those receiving chemotherapy and undergoing heart surgery, require platelet transfusions. If a patient's doctor orders platelets, directed donations by friends and relatives are encouraged. Platelets can be stored for five days. It is preferable to donate platelets three days prior to the scheduled procedure and transfusion.

Platelets are collected by apheresis, which uses a medical device called a cell separator to process the donor's blood, collect the platelets and return the remaining blood to the donor. A directed donor may give platelets once a week.

How many lives will **U** save?



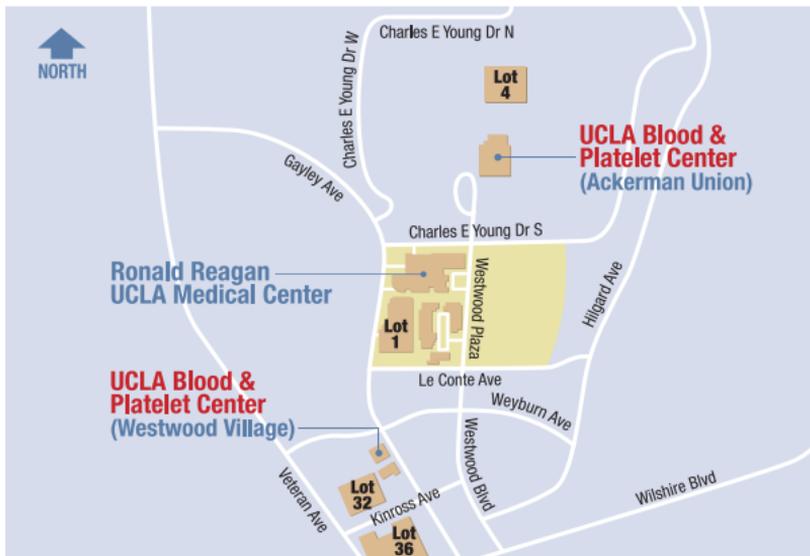


Stroke survivor and family remain optimistic following tragic event.

Katherine Arnold Wolf was enjoying a successful modeling and acting career in California. Her husband, Jay, was finishing a law degree, and their infant son was thriving. But everything changed when Katherine suffered an arteriovenous malformation rupture at the base of her brain. After a 16-hour surgery that required 10 percent of UCLA's blood resources, Katherine and Jay described her hard-fought survival as a "miracle."

"We are eternally grateful for all UCLA has meant and continues to mean to us. The UCLA Blood Bank is certainly near the top of our list of things that we all take for granted but are unbelievably thankful to have access to when we need it. Without such a readily available supply of blood, Katherine would very likely not be here today."

— Jay Wolf, husband



Locations and parking

Our Westwood Village center is located at 1045 Gayley Avenue, two blocks north of Wilshire Blvd. between Kinross and Weyburn Avenues. We have several parking options available:

- **Lot 1 (at UCLA Medical Plaza)**
- **Lot 32 (one block north of Wilshire Blvd.)**

We also have a location on the UCLA campus in Ackerman Union with parking available in Lot 4 (on Westwood Plaza). We do not validate parking for any of the public lots. When you call for an appointment, please discuss the parking options, or visit our website for details.



Blood & Platelet Center

WESTWOOD VILLAGE:

1045 Gayley Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

UCLA CAMPUS:

Ackerman Student Union, A-level

310-794-7207

E-mail: gotblood@mednet.ucla.edu

uclahealth.org/gotblood