



Blood Donations / Blood Banking

What is blood banking?

Blood banking ensures that donated blood or blood products are safe before they are used in blood transfusions. Blood banking includes checking and matching blood type and testing for infectious diseases.

Types of blood donation:

- **BANKED BLOOD** is donated by volunteers.
- **DIRECTED DONATION** is the process by which blood is donated for a specific patient's use.
- **AUTOLOGOUS DONATION** allows patients to donate their own blood prior to undergoing elective surgery, so that their blood is available in case of a blood transfusion.

In order to qualify as a blood donor, you **must**:

- Be at least 17 years of age or have parental consent
- Be in good health
- Weigh at least 110 pounds
- Pass the physical and health history examination given prior to donation

How long before surgery can blood be donated?

- Autologous donation can be made 7 days to 3 weeks before surgery date.
- Directed donations can be made 7 to 14 days before surgery date.

How do I or my family member arrange an appointment for autologous or directed blood donation?

You can call the NY Blood Center 800-439-6876 to make an appointment to donate. Please let the clinic nurse know if you intend to donate, as there is paperwork that needs to be filed before an appointment can be made.

Where do I go to donate blood?

New York Blood Center handles all of our directed and autologous donations. They have sites in Manhattan, New Jersey, Long Island, and Hudson Valley. When you call to set up your appointment, they can help you find a site closest to you.

Is there any fee involved in autologous or directed donations?

There are no fees if you are donating for a surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.