

Autologous donation refers to the removal and storage of your blood as ordered by your physician or surgeon for transfusion to you at a later date. We want you to be able to make an informed and responsible decision to donate today. Therefore, we ask you to read the following information. If there is anything you do not understand, please feel free to ask questions. We want to make your donation as pleasant as possible.

The Autologous Whole Blood Donation Process

- You will be asked for identification, preferably a driver's license, other government issued ID card, or your Solvita Donor Identification card.
- Collection staff will check your temperature, pulse, blood pressure, and hemoglobin.
- You will be asked a few confidential medical history questions to make sure you are healthy enough to donate blood.
- Collections staff will cleanse your arm with either Chlorhexidine or iodine. Please tell us if you are allergic to either solution. All the materials used are sterile and are used only one time before being thrown away. It is impossible to become infected with AIDS or any other disease by donating blood.
- You may feel a "sting" when the actual donation is started. You will give one unit of blood (approximately 500 ml or one pint) which will take 10-15 minutes. Please let us know immediately if you feel any discomfort.
- You will be given instructions to make sure that you continue to feel well after your donation. This information will include a phone number you can call if you decide at a later time that your blood may not be safe, or if you begin to feel ill. Most people feel fine during and after the donation. Possible risks or discomforts that may occur include:
 - Feeling warm/sweaty (diaphoresis), becoming pale (pallor)
 - Upset stomach (nausea and/or vomiting)
 - Bruising or swelling (hematoma) at or around the site where the needle was inserted
 - Redness or local infection at or around the site of insertion
 - Pain at or around the donation site
 - Feeling faint or dizzy (lightheaded)
 - Excessive tiredness (fatigue)
 - Hyperventilation
 - Low blood pressure (hypotension)
 - Headache
 - Nerve damage
 - Arterial stick requiring medical attention
- Because you may experience mild anemia (low red blood cell count) and decreased blood volume, you should limit strenuous and/or hazardous activities between the time you donate your first unit of blood and the time you are scheduled to use your blood.
- At the end of the donation, you will be asked to rest in our canteen area and enjoy some of the refreshments provided.

Please feel free to ask the Collections staff any questions you may have. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time, for any reason. You also have the right to discuss the procedure with a physician.

Additional Information On Autologous Donation

- Your blood is usually the safest blood for you to receive. However, there are rare occasions when receiving your own blood may cause you to have serious problems. These problems can be due to undiagnosed medical conditions such as hereditary spherocytosis, or damage to your red blood cells due to improper storage and handling.
- We test each unit for Hepatitis, Syphilis, AIDS, and other infectious diseases. The tests we use are excellent, but they are not perfect. After infection with the HIV virus or Hepatitis virus, it may take weeks for antibodies to appear in your blood. If you were infected recently, you may feel well and your test results may still be negative.
- Solvita allows the use of autologous units with abnormal or positive test results, including confirmed positive test results for HIV and/or Hepatitis B. The hospital transfusion service (blood bank), your surgeon, and you will be notified of the abnormal results as outlined in Solvita's notification policies. If your unit is confirmed positive for HIV and/or Hepatitis B, it can only be released with the consent of your physician and the hospital blood bank where you are having surgery.
- PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE HAVING SURGERY IN INDIANA, INDIANA STATE LAW DOES NOT ALLOW THE RELEASE/USE OF ANY UNIT WITH AN HIV POSITIVE SCREENING TEST, EVEN IF THE CONFIRMATORY TESTING IS NEGATIVE. We will notify you and your physician that your unit will not be available if your surgery is scheduled for an Indiana hospital.
- If testing indicates that you are not eligible to donate blood for someone other than yourself, your name will be added to a confidential list of unacceptable donors (donor deferral registry) kept at Solvita. You will be notified of your results, and counseling and referral information will be provided to you.
- It is Solvita's policy to keep your medical history in the strictest confidence. However, should problems arise, it may be necessary for us to discuss this information with your personal physician or surgeon, with Solvita Medical Directors, or their designees. When required by law, we report donor information, including test results, to health departments, military commands, and regulatory agencies.
- Since not all elements of the usual blood donation apply to the autologous process, your unit will be labeled in a special way to alert hospital personnel that the unit is intended exclusively for you and that special handling is required.
- Your blood will be given back to you only if your physician feels it is necessary. If your surgery is cancelled, your unit may become unusable due to the fact that the blood collected has a limited storage period. The unit becomes unusable 42 days after collection. Any units not used will be disposed of at the end of their storage period. If your surgery is postponed, it is possible to extend the 42 days by freezing the unit(s). This will be done only at the request of your physician.
- Fees for autologous collection are normally charged through the hospital transfusion service at the time you are admitted. These fees cover equipment, testing, labeling, special handling, personnel, and physician consultation. Please be aware that although we have told you the Solvita fees you will be charged by the hospital, there may be other fees generated by the hospital for the preparation and actual transfusion of your units. Because your unit cannot be used for any other patient, these fees are charged whether or not the unit is used. If, for some reason, you are not admitted to the hospital, you will be billed directly. If your physician has instructed us to freeze your unit, an additional fee will be charged.