

Section K: Directed Donor Program

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The Directed Donor Program is limited to “a parent/legal guardian to child donation” where the child cannot donate in the autologous blood program. Directed donations are usually received in the hospital BTL as packed cells. If the donor plasma is also compatible with the recipient, the Frozen Plasma (FP) is also received. ALL cellular products MUST be irradiated to prevent Transfusion Associated Graft versus Host Disease (TA-GVHD).

I. Directed Donation Requests

If a parent expresses interest in being a Directed Donor for their child, the following steps must be completed.

1. Review the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) basic eligibility criteria that the directed donor will have to meet in order to be accepted as a donor. These include:
 - a. Age: 17 – 61 Weight: > 50kg (110 lb)
 - b. Hemoglobin >110 g/L for first appointment
 - c. General good health including no recent cold, flu or sore throat
 - d. No ear or body piercing or tattooing within past 6 months
 - e. No dental work for a minimum of 72 hours pre-donation
 - f. No known exposure or risk factor for HIV or hepatitis
 - g. No travel history to malaria areas* in the past year
 - h. No possible exposure to CJD or vCJD (cumulative time of greater than or equal to 3 months in UK, France and some other European countries*)

*CBS can inform potential donor of the countries/areas in these lists

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2. Ensure parent is informed of the risks, benefits and alternatives of both allogeneic blood transfusion and directed donation.
3. If not already done, complete the LHSC and/or St Joseph's Health Care consent form with the parent.
4. Register and/or create an encounter for the parent(s) eligible for directed donation in Cerner PowerChart.
5. Order GSO (Group and Screen Only) to determine ABO/Rh compatibility with child.
6. If child requires CMV negative blood, also order CMVG test in Cerner to determine CMV status of directed donor.
7. Complete the CBS *Physicians' Request for Directed Donation* form.
8. Send white and green part of the CBS form, together with all the blood that was drawn to the Blood Transfusion Laboratory (BTL). The yellow portion of the form is retained by the physician.

II. Directed Donation Request Forms

1. These forms can be obtained from the BTL at LHSC (Victoria Hospital) or SJHC BTL, or from the London Centre of the CBS. The package of forms contains 3 parts:
 - a. Physician's copy (yellow)
 - b. BTL copy (green)
 - c. CBS copy (white)
2. The physician requesting the directed donation must complete the Request Form in its entirety and explain to the donor the details of the program including the risks, benefits and any alternatives that may be applicable.
3. The physician will keep the physician's copy of the Request Form, and send the remainder of the completed forms to the BTL together with the blood taken on the donor for Group and Screen and, if applicable CMV testing. The BTL will complete the testing, confirm CMV status, if applicable. When it is determined that the parent is a suitable directed donor for the child, the forms will be forwarded to the CBS.

III. Testing Requirements to Determine Directed Donor Eligibility

1. Tests to determine eligibility are done in the London Laboratory Services Group (LLSG) laboratories.
2. BTL will determine whether directed donor is ABO/Rh compatible with child. The antibody screen test is also used to determine whether directed donor has any red cell antibodies that will prevent him from being a directed donor.
3. The Microbiology laboratory will test the directed donor for CMV status if the child requires CMV negative blood. The tests are batched and usually run on the Monday or Tuesday of

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each week. They will NOT do CMV tests individually because of the cost. About 50% of the population is positive for CMV. It is not ethical to ask a parent to donate for their child without knowing the CMV status pre-donation because there is a 50% chance the donated blood will be CMV positive and discarded.

4. The CBS will test the donated unit for CMV as part of their infectious disease testing. On occasion the parent may test negative in hospital and positive at the CBS, due to the differences in testing methods. If the CBS test is positive, the unit will not be considered CMV negative, and a decision will need to be made by the physician as to whether it is acceptable for transfusion.
5. It will take at least 7 days and perhaps as long as 10 days before testing is completed, forms are sent to CBS, donor is contacted, blood is drawn, infectious disease testing is completed, directed donated blood is Irradiated and donated blood is sent to the BTL.

IV. CBS Approval of Directed Donation Requests

1. All requests must be approved by the Medical Director of the London Centre of the CBS.
2. Once approved, the CBS Nursing Manager will contact the donor to arrange clinic appointments. Directed donations are usually made at either the London or Windsor Permanent Clinics. Whenever possible, donations may be arranged at scheduled mobile clinics in the donor's region.
3. Eligible donations are made at weekly intervals with the last unit being collected up to 72 hours prior to requirement.
4. All directed blood donations must satisfy the donor eligibility criteria established by the Canadian Blood Services (CBS). The donation is tested for the presence of infectious diseases including HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HTLV-1, West Nile Virus and Syphilis.
5. Report on any positive results for infectious disease markers will be sent to the donor, the requesting physician and, as required by law, the Medical Officer of Health. Individuals who test positive for any of the above tests are not eligible for the program.

V. Transfusion Consent for Recipients of Directed Donations

1. The [LHSC Consent to Treatment Policy and Procedure](#) or the [SJHC Consent Policy](#) must be followed and appropriate forms completed in **addition** to the CBS Directed Donor forms.
2. The patient and/or SDM must be aware that additional blood products may be required.
3. If the patient/SDM refuses blood from non-directed donors, the Refusal/Consent with Restriction of Blood and/or Blood Products form must be completed. (See [LHSC Consent to Treatment Policy and Procedure](#) and [SJHC Consent Policy](#)).

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VI. Storage and Outdate

1. The directed donor packed red blood cells are sent from the CBS to the BTL before the scheduled surgery or anticipated use.
2. The units are stored at 1 – 6 °C, separate from the standard inventory.
3. The expiry date for each unit is 28 days post irradiation (maximum 35 - 42 days from time of donation, depending on anticoagulant).
4. If the plasma is compatible with the patient, it is stored at ≤18C, separate from the standard inventory. The expiry date for each unit of frozen plasma is the same as the expiry date of the packed red blood cells.
5. Any blood products that are not used will be held in the BTL for the child until it outdates.