

Use of Donor Information and Blood Samples in Research

This blood center performs research to help provide a safe and effective blood supply. Research studies are conducted to improve blood safety and contribute to advancing biomedical knowledge. Some research is conducted with other institutions, such as blood bank organizations, academic centers and biomedical companies.

Your participation in research studies is entirely voluntary.

What will happen if I agree to allow my blood to be used in research studies?

All research studies are evaluated and reviewed periodically by an independent committee that considers your rights as a research participant. Formal research studies are included in the clinical trial registry maintained by the National Institutes of Health for public access (www.ClinicalTrials.gov). Your participation will not require any additional procedures or time beyond the normal donation process. There will be no payments to you for your participation.

How might my blood or information be used in research?

A portion of your blood sample or information collected at the time of donation may be used to make research studies possible. Some examples of the types of research are:

- New methods for testing for infectious diseases.
- Studies relating to testing, storing, collecting, and processing blood.
- Studies of ways to recruit blood donors and evaluate donor eligibility.

Will my results and information be kept confidential if they are used for research purposes?

- Samples used by researchers will have your identifying information removed. Only authorized blood center personnel can link samples to your identifying information.
- Strict procedures are observed at all blood collection facilities to maintain your confidentiality. Identifying information will not be revealed to anyone unless required by law.

How might my sample be tested and will I be informed of results?

- Samples linked to your identifying information may be used for infectious disease testing to provide safe blood.
- You will be notified in person, by phone, or by letter, about any test results that may impact your health.

What will happen if my blood sample or information is stored for future research on blood safety?

- If your sample is stored for research purposes, only authorized blood center personnel can link it to your identifying information.
- Your identified sample and information will not be used for research unrelated to blood safety or advancing biomedical knowledge.

What benefit will I receive for participating in a research study?

No benefit will be provided directly to you. However, use of blood donor data and samples for research provides for increased blood safety and understanding of health and disease.

Does my participation create any risk for me?

The risk of participating in these research studies is very small. There is a very low chance that your blood sample may give a result that means the blood that you donate will not be used for transfusion and there is a possibility that you may not be able to donate again. If this happens, additional testing may be available to help clarify the results and we will discuss these results and your eligibility to donate with you.

What else may happen due to my participation?

If your test results are positive or unexpected, you may be asked to participate in a follow-up study. Participation is voluntary and of no cost to you. Follow-up studies frequently involve completing a short questionnaire and providing additional samples for further testing. Information about follow-up studies will be provided to you before requesting your participation. Should you choose to participate, an additional informed consent process will be required.

What are my rights?

- You may refuse to participate by notifying blood collection staff that you do not want your donation to be used for research and that you will not be donating blood or blood components today. If you decide to withdraw after leaving the donation site, contact the blood center at 800-289-4923. However, test information collected before your withdrawal request may still be used after you are removed from the study.
- If you decide that you do not want your donation to be used for research, you will not be able to donate today. It is very important to include all blood donors and their donations in possible research studies to continue to provide a safe and effective blood supply.
- If you decide not to participate at this time, your decision will not change your future relationship with the blood center.

Whom should I contact if I have more questions?

For more information about research uses of your blood or information, call our Donor Counseling Service at 800-289-4923. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, call the Western Institutional Review Board administrator at (360) 252-2500.

By signing your _____ Blood Donation Record _____, you are giving consent to allow us to use a portion of your blood donation and information for research purposes.

You may keep this information sheet for future reference.