

Important Notes on Therapeutic Phlebotomy Orders

Reference Document

Use this information to educate donors on the process for therapeutic phlebotomies.

Prior to Therapeutic Donations

- Patients must weigh over 110 lbs, have normal vital signs, and be in otherwise healthy and stable condition for a therapeutic phlebotomy order to be approved.
- A physician or advanced practice provider must complete the order and cannot write orders for themselves or immediate family members.
- The [Therapeutic Phlebotomy Order](#) form must be completed by a medical provider and sent to the Medical Office prior to the visit; processing may take up to two business days. Do not bring the order to the donation center for processing.
- Orders are not required for Hereditary Hemochromatosis (HH) or Secondary Polycythemia or Erythrocytosis due to Testosterone Replacement Therapy (TRT) if qualified for allogeneic donation. An order is only required if:
 - Phlebotomy is required more often than every 8 weeks; if needed immediately, collect the first donation as allogeneic and submit an order for subsequent donations.
 - Hemoglobin is out of range (less than 13.0 g/dL for males, less than 12.5 g/dL for females, or greater than 19.0 g/dL for males and females).
- Patients should not donate 2RBC (double red blood cells). 2RBC donations result in a 16-week deferral regardless of whether an order is on file. The 16-week deferral is mandated by the FDA and cannot be changed by LifeSouth.
- Enrolled therapeutic patients (excluding approved cross-over donors whose medical conditions allow their blood to be used for general patients) are indefinitely deferred from allogeneic donation. To remove this deferral, a medical provider must provide documentation that blood donation is no longer medically required; a simple note clearing the donor to donate is not acceptable.
- For orders received after June 11, 2024, LifeSouth does not monitor donation frequency. Patients should comply with their healthcare practitioner's recommendation for donation frequency, but donations cannot occur more than once every 7 days.
- LifeSouth staff and Medical Directors cannot modify orders. They act as medical prescriptions and only the ordering practitioner can alter them.

Note

*Products from **HH** or **Secondary Polycythemia or Erythrocytosis due to TRT** may be used for transfusions if they meet allogeneic donation qualification criteria. Eligible patients with sufficient hemoglobin levels may donate every 8 weeks or as indicated by the order, up to a maximum frequency of once every 7 days.*

After Therapeutic Donations

Therapeutic phlebotomy orders expire after one year. A new order must be submitted annually to continue therapeutic donation.