

## Patient Information -> Blood Donation

[pdf](#)

Most procedures done in the cardiology department do not require blood transfusion. However, if a transfusion is indicated, this possibility and related issues will be explained to you when your child's procedure is being scheduled. If a blood transfusion is required, there are two options for you to consider:

1. **BANKED BLOOD** is available as needed for patients at Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland. The banked blood is provided by the American Red Cross and is thoroughly tested for compatibility and infectious diseases before being given to a patient. Most insurance companies cover blood transfusions using banked blood.
2. **FAMILY DONATION** must be arranged with the cardiology department and American Red Cross at least three weeks prior to the procedure. Please note that a family donation may not be covered by insurance and costs anywhere from \$107 to \$710 per unit to process the blood (these fees include a one time donation fee of \$50.00 and are subject to change). If your insurance company covers family donations, the coverage is typically limited to the cost of the blood and does not include the \$50.00 processing fee. In addition, most insurance companies expect the family to pay the total cost up front and later reimburse the family for the cost of the blood only.

If family donation is not a covered benefit under your specific benefit plan, the American Red Cross will work with you to develop a reasonable payment plan.

**It is important to point out that studies have shown that family donated blood does not have a lower rate of transmittable disease than blood bank donations. With respect to HIV infection, the risk of transmitting the HIV virus from a blood transfusion is remarkably low, less than 1 case in 2,000,000 transfusions. Please call our department to discuss the risks and benefits with a cardiologist or nurse clinician if you are interested in family donation.**



**Disclaimer:** The information provided here is intended to educate the reader about certain medical conditions and certain possible treatment. It is not a substitute for examination, diagnosis, and medical care provided by a licensed and qualified health professional. If you believe you, your child, or someone you know, suffer from the conditions described herein, please see your health care provider immediately. Do not attempt to treat yourself, your child or anyone else without proper medical supervision.