Parental Information on Blood Donation

Your son or daughter has expressed interest in donating blood with BloodCenter of Wisconsin. In Wisconsin, a minor who is at least 16 years old may become a blood donor, if the minor's parent agrees. After age 17, the consent of the minor's parent is not required. A *Consent to Blood Donation* form for 16-year-old donors is required each time the minor donates. This form will provide you and your son or daughter with important information about blood donation.

We hope that you will support and encourage your son or daughter to become a blood donor. By becoming a blood donor, your son or daughter is showing great civic responsibility, maturity and a sense of community pride. Through blood donation, your son or daughter can positively impact the health of a patient.

The Donation Process. There are four steps to the donation process:

1. Registration – Each donor is required to present a picture ID with the donor's date of birth and complete a list of health-related questions.
2. Medical Evaluation – The medical evaluation ensures safety for both the blood donor and recipients. In order to donate, an individual must be in good health, be at least 16-years-old, and weigh at least 110 pounds (see below for additional height and weight criteria). Each prospective donor will meet privately with a donor specialist who will check the donor's blood pressure, temperature and pulse, and take a small drop of blood from the donor's finger to test the donor's blood count.

MALES			
If you are	4' 10"	4' 11"	5' or taller
You must weigh at least	120lbs.	115lbs.	110lbs.

FEMALES						
If you are	5' 1"	5' 2"	5' 3"	5' 4"	5' 5"	5' 6"or taller
You must weigh at least	133lbs.	129lbs.	124lbs.	118lbs.	115lbs.	110lbs.

*Females: If you are shorter than 5' 1", you may still be eligible to donate blood. Call our Record Review Department at 414-937-6070 to ask about your eligibility.

3. Blood Collection and Testing – Blood is collected through a sterile needle inserted into the donor's arm. The actual blood donation takes about 10 minutes. To ensure the safety of persons who may receive donated blood, all donated blood is tested for ABO blood typing, HIV (the virus that causes AIDS), hepatitis B and C, West Nile virus, syphilis, and other illnesses. All donor information is kept strictly confidential; however, if any of these screening tests are positive, BloodCenter will inform the donor and his or her parent/guardian. In some cases, the donor's name may be entered in a registry of ineligible donors and we must inform certain government health agencies as required by law.
4. Refreshment and Relaxation – After the donation, donors are encouraged to spend time in the refreshment area. Snacks and drinks are provided to replenish fluids and energy levels. Also, it is important that the donor drinks plenty of fluids in the 24 hours after donation.

Potential Risks. There are some potential risks in donating blood, including: discomfort, swelling and bruising at the needle site; fainting and convulsions; injury to blood vessels or nerves; infection; and local blood clot. These risks are relatively uncommon.

Questions? If you have any questions or concerns about blood donation, please contact us at 414-937-6070 or visit our website at www.bcw.edu.

If you and your son or daughter want to proceed with blood donation, please read and sign and return the *Consent to Blood Donation* form with your child when they come to donate.

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