WHAT:
The Community Blood Center provides free therapeutic phlebotomies as a service to the community.

For people diagnosed with Hereditary Hemochromatosis (HH), therapeutic phlebotomies with The Community Blood Center can be a way to help other people. Blood from people with HH who meet allogeneic donor eligibility criteria (with the exception of donation frequency) will be released for transfusion to hospital patients.

People with HH who do not meet allogeneic donor eligibility criteria but who qualify as a therapeutic patient will have their blood collected as a therapeutic patient. Like the blood given by other therapeutic patients, this blood will not be released for transfusion.

HOW:
Therapeutic phlebotomies are scheduled in advance. Before a phlebotomy appointment can be scheduled, the physician’s order must be received by the blood center’s Special Procedures Coordinator.

A hematocrit/hemoglobin will be done for each therapeutic patient and HH donor to determine eligibility. If hematocrit/hemoglobin is below the minimum level established by the person’s physician, a phlebotomy will not be performed.

WHO:
In order to participate in the therapeutic phlebotomy program, patients and donors must:
- Meet hematocrit/hemoglobin parameters as identified in the physician order
- Be ambulatory, or able to perform self-transfer to and from a wheelchair
- Meet the health history criteria established by The Community Blood Center’s Medical Director

WHERE:
Therapeutic phlebotomies may be scheduled at The Community Blood Center donor centers in Appleton, Little Chute, Oshkosh, and Arbor Vitae. They may also be scheduled at weekly blood drive locations in Rhinelander and Merrill. For hours or more information, call The Community Blood Center’s Special Procedures Coordinator at (800) 280-4102, ext 6657.

TO LEARN MORE:
To start the process of participating in the therapeutic phlebotomy program, call The Community Blood Center’s Special Procedures Coordinator at (800)280-4102, ext 6657.

Since 1955, The Community Blood Center has worked with volunteer blood donors to provide a steady, reliable blood supply for hospitals. Today, the blood center remains a nonprofit, independent organization committed to serving hospitals and their patients.

2/8/16