



A Not-For-Profit
Community-Supported
Blood Bank

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NEWS RELEASE

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank Granted Re-Accreditation
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Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) has been granted re-accreditation by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), according to Mark J. Magenheim, M.D., CEO/Medical Director. The Blood Bank received verification of its accreditation on April 11, 2005.

Accreditation follows an intensive on-site assessment by specially trained AABB assessors and establishes that the level of medical, technical and administrative performance within the facility meets or exceeds the standards set by AABB. By successfully meeting those requirements, SCBB joins approximately 1,700 similar facilities across the United States and abroad that have earned AABB accreditation. Accreditation is valid for two years and certifies that SCBB is accredited in transfusion activities and donor center activities.

“The AABB’s Accreditation procedures are voluntary,” Dr. Magenheim explained. “Suncoast Communities Blood Bank has sought AABB Accreditation because this program assists facilities around the country in achieving excellence by promoting a level of professional and medical expertise that contributes to quality performance. The Blood Bank aims to continue to provide the highest quality product to our community and citizens.”

Since 1958, AABB has been engaged in the accreditation of blood banks and transfusion services. Today its Accreditation Program assists blood banks, transfusion services, cellular therapy facilities, parentage testing sites, immunohematology reference laboratories and perioperative services in determining whether methods, procedures, personnel knowledge, equipment and the physical plant meet established requirements. The minimum requirements for accreditation are based primarily on a set of specific standards for the area in which accreditation is being sought. Standards are based on good medical practice, and, when available, scientific data, principles associated with good manufacturing practices and quality assurance which are

consistent with Food & Drug Administration (FDA) regulations. The Accreditation Program assesses the quality and operational systems in place within the facility. These standards not only reflect the level of professional proficiency for blood banks and transfusion services in the United States, but also provide the basis for practice in similar facilities around the world. Suncoast Communities Blood Bank joined AABB in 1953.

AABB Accreditation is the designation of choice for blood banking, transfusion medicine, blood management and cellular therapies because it demonstrates an organization's commitment to advanced learning, continuous improvement and innovation by striving to sustain the highest possible level of patient and donor care. AABB is an international non-profit membership organization dedicated to advancing the field of transfusion medicine and related biological therapies.

SCBB has served Sarasota, Charlotte and DeSoto counties for more than fifty years providing a reliable supply of quality blood products and services to the community. For more information about SCBB, how to donate blood or where to donate, contact 941-954-1600 extension 240 or visit www.scbb.org.

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