



Sanford Hospital maintains a safe, reliable blood supply for its community with WellSky® Blood Centers

As the largest hospital in South Dakota, Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls plays many vital roles in the community. One such role is to coordinate a longstanding partnership with the Sioux Falls Community Blood Bank and another local hospital to ensure the region has an adequate supply of blood products.

Sanford collects just over 10,000 units at its facility and mobile vehicles. The hospital also oversees the data for another 5,000 units collected from partner organizations. The collection workflows, product data, and donor information are collected and managed in **WellSky Blood Centers**.

Faster intake

WellSky estimates that only 125 hospitals have donor centers that process at least 5,000 units, making Sanford's blood donor program one of the largest in the country. Because blood collection is not a core function of most hospital EMRs (electronic medical records), it's important for hospital-based blood donor programs to use a reliable technology platform.

"WellSky is so simple. It gives us everything we need," says Patty Goetz, the Senior Clinical Application Support Analyst at Sanford. "Corrections are easy. Before, you had to key in everything. Now donor data stored in the database flows right into our intake screens."

Smarter deferrals

"In our prior system, you had to manually initiate deferrals," Goetz recalls. This was both time-consuming and risky if a staff member missed a deferral reason during intake.

WellSky automates this process with an easy-to-use questionnaire that applies logic to flag donors who must be deferred due to health conditions, travel, pulse, bruising, or other qualifying conditions. Deferral logic is especially helpful for mobile drives and donations. It dynamically calculates deferrals based on the donor's history, their current health history, and physical findings.

Less paper

"We see all the health data for a donor on the WellSky screen. It's like one-stop shopping," Goetz says. Sanford's donor program is almost entirely paperless. They still look at donor cards and print certain worksheets for testing. For example, the testing status report confirms that test results are posted. Goetz finds the combination of screen and paper is nearly 100% reliable and simplifies error-checking. It also provides excellent review capabilities to diagnose problems.

Lower testing costs

The hospital can conduct red blood cell (RBC) antigen testing in WellSky Blood Centers. RBC antigen testing data in WellSky Transfusion is automatically transferred to donors in WellSky Blood Centers as well. (This data becomes a permanent record type for the donor.)

This process delivers a large cost savings for anti-sera. Sanford can trace donors by antigen type, and the results are available in a report for all appropriate end users in the hospital. Sanford will soon provide convalescent plasma therapy for COVID-19 patients.

Safe, speedy manufacturing and distribution

Incoming units and finished blood products are labeled using WellSky. Numerous quality checks ensure patient safety, so the right blood is available for the right patient at the right time. Once a product passes all quality checks, a label is printed and verified in one easy step. All approved products can be entered into Sanford's blood bank inventory with just one click. Failed products are also labeled for discard or as a biohazard.

Reliable support from WellSky

Goetz sends very few support tickets to WellSky, and when she does, she finds the Support team is very responsive. "I trust WellSky completely," she says.

Goetz likes that the system is highly customizable, which is especially valuable for a hospital blood center. "You need to make sure you get it the the way you want it," she says. Goetz built in several workflows around interdictions that virtually eliminated the typos and data entry errors she was seeing prior to WellSky.

Informed management

WellSky locks in current good manufacturing practices (cGMPs) at donor intake and throughout the entire process to ensure all necessary steps take place.

Certain errors can be corrected by staff members; others require a supervisor's approval. The system also offers reports that greatly simplify quality and compliance reporting.

Room to grow

WellSky's work with blood banks and donor centers has led to a continually evolving solution that can adapt to any new requirements Sanford may face in the future. The system includes a range of testing and manufacturing capabilities, like Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) matching, that the Sanford team does not currently use but may use at a later time.

The system can scale to include other hospitals in the Sanford Health system, other hospitals, or donor centers similar to their current partner, Sioux Falls Community Blood Bank. And WellSky offers timely integration with the latest instruments coming to market. In all these ways, Sanford is well-positioned with WellSky to grow its donor program.

About WellSky®

WellSky tests nearly 75 percent of the blood supply in the U.S., and that share is growing rapidly. WellSky Blood Centers provides a comprehensive system that streamlines and automates your facility's processes, so you can better manage supply to meet demand. We develop and maintain our solution to the most rigorous standards, successfully obtaining FDA Pre-Market 510(k) Clearance and complying with ISBT requirements. Our proven history and security measures have made us a trusted source for safe and efficient blood management software.

WellSky Blood Centers' newly enhanced OnSite Module is a paperless system to document the entire donor process and collections, including equipment QC, health history, physical findings, collection, unit transfers to Lab, and donor surveys. It includes the FastTrak option for remote health history.



Get started today! Contact your WellSky representative to learn more or schedule a demonstration.

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