

St. Joseph picks new blood supplier

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St. Joseph Health System-Sonoma County has selected Blood Centers of the Pacific to supply blood to Petaluma Valley Hospital and Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, thereby ending a 60-year relationship with Blood Bank of the Redwoods. "Blood Bank of the Redwoods was, for decades, a valued partner on whom we and our patients relied for a precious resource," said George Perez, president and CEO of St. Joseph Health System of Sonoma County. "We thank the blood bank and its donors for helping to save and sustain our patients' lives." "We had hoped to maintain that long-standing relationship for years to come. But the need to mitigate the impact of rising, poorly reimbursed blood costs on patients and our hospitals led us to choose a new supplier who can provide the same level of quality, safety and availability." The cost of blood at PVH and SRMH has been more than \$25 per patient, the highest of all the 14 St. Joseph Health System sites, according to statistics released by St. Joseph. Beginning July 30, Blood Centers of the Pacific will supply PVH with 1,000 units of red blood cells each year and SRMH with approximately 8,000 units of blood cells annually to meet patients' needs. Blood is used to treat trauma victims, cancer patients, people undergoing surgery, new mothers and their babies and many other patients. Blood Centers of the Pacific, based in San Francisco, is a community-based nonprofit organization that provides volunteer blood to 40 hospitals throughout Northern California, and is an affiliate of Blood Systems, the nation's second largest blood-collection organization. Either Blood Systems or Blood Centers of the Pacific also supply blood to sister hospitals of PVH and SRMH — Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa and Covenant Health Systems facilities in Texas. By expanding its relationship with Blood Centers of the Pacific, St. Joseph Health System partners are able to work collectively at moderating blood

costs.