



"Quality Care Close to Home"

800 East Highway 71
Smithville, Texas 78957

SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS

November 8, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What blood type are you?

On November 27, between 9am and 1pm, Smithville Regional Hospital will be hosting the Central Texas Blood and Tissue Mobile in its east parking area. Donors may call 237-5769 to reserve an appointment time.

A person with type "O" blood, 38% of the US population, is called a universal donor. Any person, regardless of blood type, can receive type "O" blood safely. When a patient's blood type is unknown and an emergency situation arises, type "O" blood is given until the patient's blood type is determined.

A person with blood type "AB", 1% of the US population, is called a universal recipient. People with this blood type can receive any blood (type "A", "B", "AB" and "O") safely.

The Central Texas Blood and Tissue Center is responsible for supplying blood to area hospitals, such as Smithville Regional Hospital. It is important to keep a large variety of blood types in stock at the center. Approximately 13.9 million units of whole blood are donated in the United States each year. Approximately 8 million volunteer donors provide blood for about 4.5 million patients per year.

Volunteer donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. Donors need to be in good health, and will need to be able to pass a brief physical and health history prior to donating.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
MARKETING DEPARTMENT
SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
512-360-2121