

Did you know?

Plasma is a pale yellow mixture of water, proteins, and salts that accounts for approximately 55% of blood volume. Replacing essential fluids, plasma can make a life-and-death difference for patients suffering from shock or those suffering from blood clotting problems.

AB plasma donors are always in high demand.

People with type AB blood—just 3 – 4 % of the entire U.S. population—are vitally important in saving and sustaining the lives of those in need of a plasma transfusion. As *universal plasma donors*, their generous gift of plasma can be given to any individual in need—regardless of the recipient's own blood type.

Male and female type AB donors and males with type A+ are strongly encouraged to donate plasma.



Plasma donors gave Kelsey the gift of life in her battle against a rare blood disease. View her story and others at MBC.org.

Make a date to save a life today

Join in Memorial Blood Centers' mission to save lives through blood donation—as a donor, volunteer, financial contributor, or blood drive sponsor. Visit MBC.org or call **1-888-GIVE-BLD** (888-448-3253).

Call or go online to schedule your next plasmapheresis donation at one of the following Memorial Blood Centers donor centers:

Coon Rapids

3200 NW Main St., Ste. 120 (Wells Fargo Bldg.)

Duluth

5115 Burning Tree Rd. (Burning Tree Plaza)

Eden Prairie

12200 Middleset Rd. (W. of Eden Prairie Ctr.)

Plymouth

3021 Harbor Ln. N. (W. of Davanni's)

Stay in touch



Get the latest news and updates on events, promotions, and life-saving stories. Plus, help spread the word about saving lives through blood donation.

About Memorial Blood Centers

Memorial Blood Centers has been saving lives for over 60 years as an independent nonprofit supplying life-saving blood to area hospitals and other partners throughout the U.S.



www.MBC.org
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Plasmapheresis Donations

Make a life-saving difference for those in need



Memorial
BLOOD CENTERS

Pat Kelly

"It just makes you feel so good to give, knowing you could be saving someone's life." says Pat, 11-gallon donor and Memorial Blood Centers Northland Advisory Board Member.

View Pat's full story at MBC.org.

Frequently asked questions

Why donate plasma?

As one of the three essential components of whole blood—along with red blood cells and platelets—plasma acts as a carrier for blood cells, nutrients, enzymes, and hormones. Clotting factors found in plasma can be critical to recovery and survival for newborn babies and adults undergoing open heart surgery. A typical liver transplant patient can require 25 units of plasma, while 20 units or more may be needed to sustain the life of a severe burn victim.

Across the U.S., approximately 3 million units of plasma are transfused every year. And since there is no substitute, only volunteer donors can save lives.

What is plasmapheresis donation?

Apheresis (AY-fur-EE-sis)—meaning to separate—allows you to give just one part of your blood and in greater quantities than through traditional methods. During a whole blood donation, for example, blood is drawn from your arm and collected as one unit. Only later is it separated into its three components: plasma, red blood cells, and platelets.

When making a plasmapheresis donation, on the other hand, a special automated process is used: blood flows directly into an apheresis instrument where plasma is separated while the other blood components—red blood cells and platelets—are returned to you. Unlike in whole blood donations, donors experience no fluid loss during this process.

How long does the donation process take?

A plasmapheresis donation appointment typically takes less than 90 minutes, with actual collection time of approximately 45 minutes.

How often can I donate?

You can make a plasmapheresis donation every 28 days. Two days later, you also can return to donate whole blood or platelets.

Are there special eligibility requirements?

Everyone who meets Memorial Blood Centers' general donor eligibility requirements (e.g., age, weight, health status) is encouraged to consider donating plasma—especially donors with type AB and males with type A+. Your hemoglobin will be tested to ensure an acceptable measure of iron is present (at least 12.5 g/dL) prior to donating. Results from the standard mini-physical and confidential interview also will be used to determine eligibility.

All type AB donors—and males with type A+—are needed most for plasma.



Who can safely donate plasma?

Memorial Blood Centers takes special care to ensure blood safety for all donors and recipients. In addition, extra selection criteria for plasma donors help further protect plasma recipients from a rare but serious complication known as TRALI (Transfusion-Related Acute Lung Injury). Antibodies thought to cause TRALI are developed when a person is exposed to cells from another person, e.g., via transfusion or pregnancy. This can result in severe breathing problems and sometimes death.

Plasma collected from 'universal' plasma donors (males and females with type AB blood) and male donors with type A+ minimizes the risk of TRALI for recipients and helps ensure the safest plasma products are available to save the lives of those in need.

Due to the nature of TRALI, donors are not affected: there are no symptoms and no known risks.



Give blood—
the ultimate renewable resourceSM

The need is constant. The supply is not.
Become a regular donor and ask others to donate, too.