

What Type of Donation Should I Give?

WHOLE BLOOD

Blood Types Needed	Length Between Donations	Donation Process Time	Actual Donation Time
All Blood Types	Every 56 days	1 hour	Less than 10 minutes

AUTOMATED DONATION

Donation Type	Length Between Donations	Optimal Blood Types Needed	Donation Process Time
Double Red Cells (2 red cell donations)	Every 16 weeks	O-, O+, B-, A-	Up to 1 hour
Red Cell + Platelet (1 red cell & 1 platelet donation)	Every 8 weeks	O-, O+, B-, A-	Up to 2 hours
Red Cell + Double Platelet (1 red cell & 2 platelet donations)	Every 8 weeks	O-, O+, B-, A-	Up to 2.5 hours
Single Platelet (1 platelet donation)	Every 8 days	All Blood Types	Up to 1.5 hours
Double Platelet (2 platelet donations)	Every 8 days	All Blood Types	Up to 2 hours
Plasma + Platelet (1 red cell & 1 platelet donation)	Every 4 weeks	AB+, AB-	Up to 2 hours
Plasma	Every 28 days	AB+, AB-	Up to 1 hour

Donation process times are approximations. Actual process times for donations which include platelets are dependent upon the platelet count and total blood volume of the individual donor. The medical history, health screening and recovery time (if required) portions of the donation process are included in the total Donation Process Time.

MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER
a non-profit organization,
and the only community blood center
servicing your local hospitals.



For a list of donor center locations and hours,
please visit our website:
GIVEaPINT.org/blood-donor-center-locations.

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GIVEaPINT.org | 1-800-B-A-DONOR



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Types of Donations

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Who Needs Red Cells, Platelets or Plasma?

The need for a specific blood component or components depends on the specific patient. Acute blood loss may require treatment with plasma, platelets and red blood cells no matter the cause. Decreased production, increased destruction, or loss of red blood cells or platelets may occur due to disease or disease treatment. Below are a few examples.

WHO NEEDS RED CELLS?

- Trauma patients
- Heart surgery patients
- Patients with internal bleeding
- Bone marrow cancer patients
- Patients undergoing dialysis
- Anemic patients
- Patients with sickle cell and other inherited blood disorders

WHO NEEDS PLATELETS?

- Trauma patients
- Heart surgery patients
- Cancer patients
- Premature babies
- Burn patients
- Organ transplant patients
- Bone marrow transplant patients

WHO NEEDS PLASMA?

- Trauma patients
- Burn patients
- Patients with bleeding disorders
- Patients with immune system disorders

For eligibility requirements based on your preferred type of donation, or for questions regarding blood donation, ask our staff, call 800-B-A-DONOR or visit GIVEaPINT.org.

Every Donation Counts

At MKBC, donors can give whole blood, red blood cells, platelets, or plasma. But what is the right type of donation for you? Our knowledgeable staff will help you to determine what type of donation to give, based on factors such as your blood type, gender, height, and weight as well as the needs of patients.

Whole Blood Donation

Whole blood is the most common type of donation. Approximately one pint of blood is collected and separated into red blood cells and plasma by our laboratory. When it is separated, each whole blood donation can help up to three people; when it is not separated, whole blood is used to treat hospital patients who have sustained significant blood loss.

The whole blood donation process takes on average 45-60 minutes, allowing approximately 15 minutes to answer eligibility questions and complete a mini-physical, 10-15 minutes in the donor chair, and 15 minutes in the canteen with unlimited snacks and drinks.

Automated Blood Donation

Automated blood donation, also called apheresis, is the process that separates blood into individual components – red blood cells, platelets and plasma. Depending on the need, one or more components are collected, while the rest are returned to the donor.

One of the benefits of the automated collection process is that the machine separates the blood components during the donation. As a result, very little needs to be done to the components prior to transfusion.

The Benefits of Automated Donation:

- Individuals may donate more frequently with automated donations – every 56 days as for whole blood donation, depending on the specific blood component(s) collected.
- Some donors may be eligible for a “double donation,” which means they can donate two or more products at one time helping to save even more lives in one donation.
- Once collected, an automated donation requires less processing by our laboratory, so we can more efficiently deliver your donation to a patient in need.
- Many donors feel better after an automated donation because the blood components are collected more slowly than during a whole blood donation and unneeded products are returned to the donor.



About Red Cells

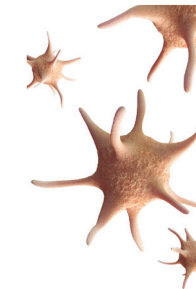
Red cells are the most common type of cell found in blood and the most transfused blood component. They transport oxygen from the lungs to all tissues in the body.

Super Reds refers to a double red blood cell donation. This allows the individual to donate enough red blood cells using the automated collection device to be split into two usable products in a 35-minute donation process.



About Platelets

Platelets are cytoplasmic fragments of cells that help control bleeding. When a blood vessel is damaged, platelets become activated, and release substances to stimulate blood clot formation as well as factors that stimulate wound healing.



About Plasma

Plasma is the light-yellow fluid that carries all blood components throughout the body.

It is a mixture of water, salts and proteins, including soluble clotting factors, and constitutes about 55 percent of blood volume.



How does my blood group influence the donation type that may be most beneficial?

- If you have group O blood, a red blood cell donation whether by the whole blood or automated process is the most desirable. Those with group O blood have red blood cells that are the most in demand. Because they lack A and B blood group markers, they can be transfused “universally” to any recipient. This is how the term “universal blood donor” arose.
- If you have group AB blood, donating plasma using the automated process is most desirable, followed by donating whole blood. Group AB plasma is very desirable because it lacks group A and Group B antibodies. Thus, plasma from group AB donors may be given to any recipient, regardless of blood type.
- Platelets from all blood groups are always in demand, partially due to a short shelf life (seven days) and because they are needed by many types of patients.



For eligibility requirements based on your preferred type of donation, or for questions regarding blood donation, ask our staff, call 800-B-A-DONOR or visit GIVEaPINT.org.



SCAN HERE for comprehensive eligibility

or visit GIVEaPINT.org

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