



HAEMONETICS®
THE Blood Management Company

Questions & Answers for Plasma Donors



Donating Plasma

WHAT IS BLOOD?

Blood is the fluid that travels through the human body. Blood carries oxygen, carbon dioxide, nutrients and waste products throughout the body and helps defend against infection.

Blood is made up of:

- RED BLOOD CELLS that carry oxygen.
- PLATELETS that help blood clot.
- WHITE BLOOD CELLS that fight infections and boost the immune system.
- PLASMA



WHAT IS PLASMA?

Plasma is a straw-colored liquid that carries the red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and other nutrients, hormones, waste products and proteins.

Plasma is made up of:

- Water (about 90%)
- Proteins and clotting factors (8%)
- Small amounts of salts, glucose (blood sugar) and lipids (fats)

Plasma makes up approximately **55%** of the volume of blood.

WHO CAN GIVE PLASMA?

Anyone in good health, 18 or older, who weighs at least 110 pounds, has valid identification and a permanent address can donate plasma.

ARE DONORS SCREENED AND TESTED?

Donors are required by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to have a medical screening prior to donating plasma. A blood test for syphilis, hepatitis, HIV (the AIDS virus), plasma protein and hematocrit levels is performed.

HOW OFTEN CAN I DONATE PLASMA?

You can donate plasma up to two times every seven days because the process returns the red blood cells to you and takes only your plasma. It only takes 24-48 hours for your body to replenish the plasma proteins and fluid that have been removed.

IS IT SAFE TO DONATE PLASMA?

Donating plasma is safe. The supplies used in collecting the plasma are sterile and are used only once. This ensures that everything that comes in contact with your blood is safe.

The machine and supplies all meet strict federal rules. The process itself is also conducted according to strict rules. The professional staff at the plasma center is trained to follow these rules and is there for your safety and comfort. In addition, the plasma is screened, tested and purified to make sure only the highest-quality plasma products are produced.

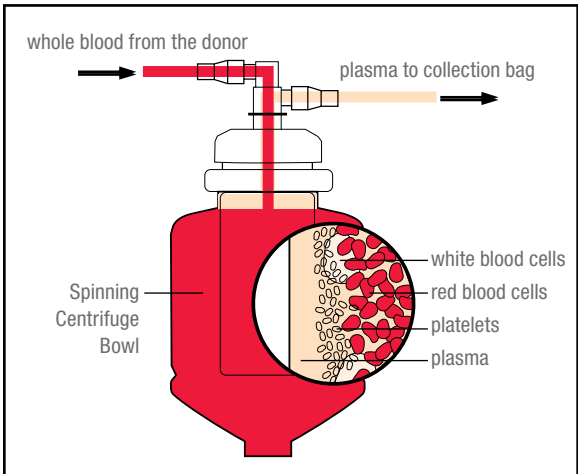
IS THE PLASMA COLLECTION CENTER REGULATED AND LICENSED?

Plasma collection centers must be licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and must comply with all federal and local regulations. The licensing process is rigorous and is designed to ensure the safety of the donors and the quality and safety of the plasma collected.

HOW WILL YOU COLLECT MY PLASMA?

We collect your plasma using a process called Plasmapheresis. This is a special process that separates the plasma from the blood and collects it in a bag or bottle. The uncollected parts of the blood, including red blood cells and white blood cells, are returned to the donor.

The collection procedure itself takes 30-60 minutes. We use a sophisticated high-tech device that safely and quickly collects the plasma and returns the other parts of the blood to you. A needle is placed in the vein of the donor's arm and blood is collected using sterile equipment. The equipment is disposable and is used only once. This eliminates the possibility of viral infection – including the transmission of AIDS.



WHY ARE WE COLLECTING PLASMA?

The proteins and clotting factors contained in plasma can be used to make medicines that help to save lives everyday. Once the plasma is collected, it is sent to a factory where it is processed to separate (fractionate) into its components. The components are made into these medicines.

HOW DO THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED FROM PLASMA HELP SAVE LIVES?

Healthy individuals are able to fight off infection and stop themselves from bleeding if they get cut; however, some less fortunate individuals are missing key substances in their blood to perform these functions. Luckily, there are medicines that can be given to these individuals that do these jobs for them. Without these therapies made from plasma, these patients would not be able to live. Some of these therapies are:

- **Immunoglobulin:** Immunoglobulins provide a defense against infection. They are very useful in patients who have an impaired immune system.
- **Clotting Factors:** Clotting factors help people, such as hemophiliacs, whose blood is not able to clot naturally on its own. The clotting factors help to prevent uncontrolled bleeding allowing them to have better, longer lives.
- **Plasma Volume Expanders:** Plasma volume expanders are often lifesaving in people who have lost a lot of blood either from an injury or during surgery.

New plasma products being discovered and investigated will help treat other diseases. It all starts with your donation.

WHY ARE DONORS COMPENSATED?

Donors are compensated for the time they spend donating plasma. The whole process typically takes 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 hours. Donor compensation also acts as an incentive to ensure an adequate supply of donors and the lifesaving products produced from their plasma.

HOW ARE DONORS COMPENSATED?

Compensation is normally paid directly to the donor after the donation.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

If you would like to learn more, contact your local plasma center.

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