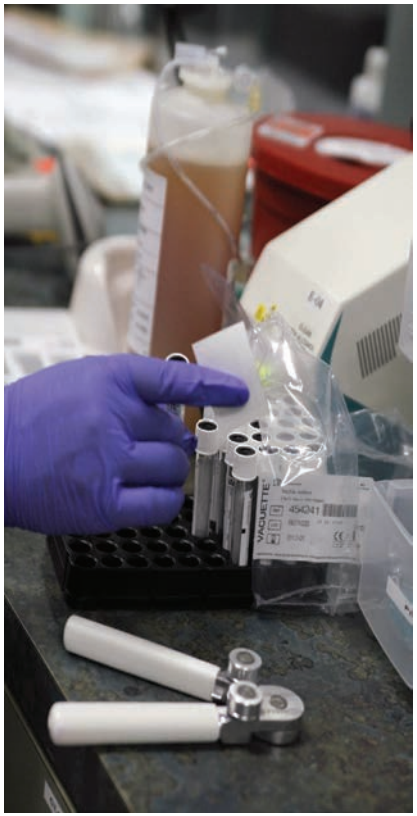
IS PLASMA DONATION SAFE?

Donating plasma is a very safe procedure with minimal or no side effects. On the initial visit (and annually thereafter) the donor receives a physical exam, urine test and a comprehensive evaluation of their medical, social and travel history. These will be recorded in the donor chart. These steps help ensure that it is safe to donate plasma and also to protect the patients that receive the therapies made from donated plasma.

Prior to each donation during subsequent visits, a staff member checks the donor's vital signs and asks questions about health and travel since their last donation. In addition, hematocrit (the percentage of blood volume occupied by red blood cells) and plasma protein levels will be measured to make sure it is safe for donation.

The tubing and all other collection supplies that come in contact with the donor's blood are sterile and are discarded after each donation. New, sterile materials are used for every donation.



Our professional medical staff is dedicated to making each visit comfortable and rewarding. Donation time can be spent relaxing, listening to music, or catching up on a favorite book.

HOW OFTEN CAN PLASMA BE DONATED?

The amount of plasma removed for each donation is calculated based on donor weight. This is done for the safety of the donor, to ensure that the small amount of proteins removed in the process will not be unhealthy for the donor.

In a normal plasma donation, blood cells are not lost only plasma is collected. Following normal daily nutrition and proper water intake, the body can replenish the plasma proteins and fluid taken at each donation within 24-48 hours. For this reason, the FDA authorizes plasma donation up to two (2) times within a seven (7) day period, provided that there is at least one day between donations.

IS THE PLASMA COLLECTION CENTER REGULATED AND LICENSED?

In compliance with federal regulations, all plasma collection centers must be licensed by the FDA. Also, our facilities are subjected to local health department regulations, as well as other state and municipal authorities. The federal licensing process is very stringent and ensures the plasmapheresis process complies with regulations that are in effect for donor safety and to maintain the quality of the donated plasma.

IS THERE COMPENSATION?

The whole donation process, from registration until the recovery period after the donation can take from two to three hours. Donors are compensated for their visit to the facility. This compensation is given directly to the donor on the actual day of the donation.

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DONATING PLASMA

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PLASMA DONORS

GRIFOLS Pride for Donors. Passion for Patients.

WHAT IS IN BLOOD?

Blood is a body fluid that is pumped by the heart and it circulates through blood vessels in the body. Since there are blood vessels everywhere in the body, the blood can then deliver oxygen and nutrients to all parts of the body and also take waste materials away from all body tissues. Blood is the only tissue that flows throughout the body. Blood is made of red blood cells, white blood cells, tiny cell fragments called platelets, and plasma. Red blood cells (RBCs) deliver oxygen, white blood cells fight infections and platelets are essential for clotting. Blood cells and platelets float in the plasma.

WHAT IS PLASMA?

Plasma is comprised of approximately 93% water. The other 7% is made of a mixture of proteins such as immunoglobulins, clotting factors and proteins that help maintain the body's fluid balance as well as hormones, dissolved nutrients (sugars, amino acids, fats, salts, minerals, etc.) and waste products from cells (CO_2, lactic acid, urea, etc.).

WHY ARE WE COLLECTING PLASMA?

Plasma donations are used to make a number of lifesaving medicines. Each plasma donation contains small amounts of proteins that serve important body functions. Because they occur in small amounts, multiple donations are needed to make a single treatment dose. After a donation is made, it is tested and processed to separate different therapeutic proteins. This process is called fractionation. The various plasma proteins are then processed and purified, into life-saving medicines.

SOME OF THESE MEDICINES ARE:

- Immunoglobulin:
  Patients who have an impaired immune system cannot fight a simple cold very well. These patients depend on immunoglobulins to ward off infections.

- Clotting Factors:
  Patients with hemophilia have a problem in which their blood is not able to clot naturally. They rely on clotting factors to prevent uncontrolled bleeding in their joints, internal organs, brain and other important parts of the body.

- Plasma Volume Expanders:
  Patients suffering from an injury or while in surgery can lose substantial amounts of blood. Plasma volume expanders reduce any potential complications related to this situation.

WHO CAN GIVE PLASMA?

To donate plasma, you must be a healthy individual at least 18 years of age or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and pass all other required donor eligibility criteria. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires every potential donor to have a medical screening prior to donating plasma. This includes:

- the recording of a potential donor's social and travel history
- a physical exam
- tests for plasma protein and hematocrit levels
- a urinalysis
- testing for Syphilis, Hepatitis, and HIV (the AIDS virus).

HOW DO WE COLLECT PLASMA?

Plasma is collected in an automated process called plasmapheresis. A small quantity of blood is collected and centrifuged to separate the plasma from the blood cells. The blood cells are returned to the donor and the separated plasma is collected in a bag or bottle. This cycle of collecting, separating plasma and returning red cells is all performed in a machine that is connected to the donor through a vein in the donor's arm. A donation usually consists of approximately 4 to 7 of these cycles and takes about 50 – 70 minutes to complete.

The components used for collection are sterile and disposable and are used only once. This eliminates the possibility of viral infection, including the transmission of HIV.