

# About Plasma Donations

Plasma is the straw-colored liquid in which your blood cells circulate. Plasma is composed of about 92% water, 7% proteins such as albumin, gamma globulin, and clotting factors, and 1% nutrients, sugars, fats, hormones and vitamins. Plasma transports these needed nutrients, proteins, clotting factors and germ-fighting antibodies, throughout your body via the circulatory system.



Thanks to multiple transfusions, **LAUREN** survived her heart transplant surgery and is now attending medical school.

## Why do patients need plasma?

**Plasma** is liquid gold and has many uses. It is most often needed to treat:

- Burn victims
- Accident victims
- Cancer patients
- Patients with thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura
- Patients with blood clotting problems

Plasma increases blood volume in emergencies and can be used to make products that fight infections and diseases.

## What's it like to donate plasma?

A small amount of blood is drawn and then takes a spin in a centrifuge to separate your plasma from other blood components. Your plasma is collected in separate bags and the remainder of your blood is returned to you along with some anticoagulant. This cycle is repeated several times to generate the required volume of plasma.

## Why not take plasma from my whole blood donation?

When you give a plasma-only donation you donate approximately two to three times the amount of plasma than can be obtained from a whole blood donation. A patient needing plasma will often require large volumes for their treatment. You can give more of this product in one donation to help support patients in need.

## Why are AB blood types the best type to give plasma?

AB blood type is the only plasma that can be safely transfused to anyone in an emergency and is always in high demand.

## How much time should I allow?

From registration through refreshment, when you donate plasma you should allow about an hour and a half. This allows you plenty of time to register and answer the questionnaire, give your donation and then relax afterwards. This extra time you take to give is vitally important to collect the much-needed plasma patients rely on every day.

## How often can I give plasma?

You can donate plasma every 28 days! Please consider donating plasma as part of your regular routine.

## Want to know more or make an appointment?

For general information or to make an appointment to donate platelets call **1.888.825.6638** or visit [www.delmarvablood.org](http://www.delmarvablood.org)

For more information regarding medical eligibility for plasma donation call **1.888.825.6638**.

Donate every **28** days!