

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY BLOOD DONATION AFTER I GIVE?

Blood journey



As soon as a blood donation has been collected at a donor center or blood drive, it is processed and prepared for patient transfusions—a process that ensures the blood is safe, and the right blood type and product is available for the right patient.

Tests performed on every unit of blood

- ABO Typed
- HBV (Hepatitis B Virus)
- HCV (Hepatitis C Virus)
- HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
- HTLV (Human T-cell Lymphotropic Virus)
- Syphilis
- Zika Virus
- West Nile Virus (WNV)
- Unexpected red cell antibodies that may have formed in response to an earlier exposure to blood (e.g., through transfusion or pregnancy)
- Sickle Cell Trait (performed on donors enrolling in the Sickle Cell Program)



1. Preparing your blood

After your unit of blood is collected—along with several small vials used for testing—it is labeled and then transported to our component laboratory.



2. Separating blood components

Blood donations are separated into components, including red cells, platelets, and plasma.



3. Testing

Your blood is typed, which includes identifying its ABO type and a positive or negative Rh factor. Each donation of blood is also tested for safety. No blood is released for transfusion without passing the required tests.



4. Storage and transport

After your blood has been separated, passed all tests, and properly typed and labeled, it is packed in special temperature-controlled containers. It is now ready to be distributed for patient transfusion in hospitals or air ambulances.



Memorial
BLOOD CENTERS



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Helping patients in need

The final step in your blood's journey is when the donation you made reaches a patient in need.

