



### General Information about Blood Donations

The Blood Center is the primary supplier of blood, blood components and plasma derivatives to local hospitals throughout South Louisiana and parts of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Each day, The Blood Center must collect 300 - 350 pints of blood in order to maintain a stable area blood supply. Because the need for blood is constant and ongoing, and at times can even be critical, our community partners and donors remain a reliable source to help ensure that blood is always available for patients who need it.

We welcome your blood donation if you are 16 or older, currently in good health, and meet the donation suitability criteria. Donors who are 16 years old must return this form, signed by a parent or legal guardian, before donating blood. **All donors must show ID containing name, birth date and/or photo on the day of donation.**

### Common Questions About Blood Donation

Q: Who might use blood?

A: Everybody. In fact, it's estimated that six out of every 10 people will need blood or blood components during their lives.

Q: Is it safe? Does it hurt?

A: Donating blood is safe. All materials are used once, then discarded. You cannot get AIDS or any other infectious disease by donating blood. Most people feel fine after they give. The actual needle stick (venipuncture) hurts no more than a pinch.

Q: How much can I give?

A: Every donor is evaluated individually with safety in mind! When you donate whole blood, one pint is collected. Depending on your gender, height, weight and total blood volume, you can give up to 2 pints in an automated blood collection. For example, one donor may be able to donate two units of Red Blood Cells, another may donate one unit of Platelets and one unit of Plasma.

Q: How long will it take?

A: The entire donation process takes about 45 minutes; automated donations take longer. The time includes the interview process before and refreshments after the donation. For the donor's safety, the donor must remain in the refreshment area a minimum of 10 minutes following the donation.

### Before You Donate

- ❖ Please eat a healthy meal before donating, even if you do not normally eat three meals a day.
- ❖ Drink plenty of water or other fluids (excluding soda, tea and/or coffee) starting a couple of days before you donate.
- ❖ Drink 16oz water 10-30 minutes before donating

### Blood Donor Suitability

The Blood Center makes a determination as to the suitability of all blood donors based on a physical examination, donor interview, and disease testing. During the donor interview, sensitive and personal information is obtained from the donor. These questions include questions about the donor's medical condition, health status, and exposure to infectious diseases. It is important that questions be answered fully and truthfully.

### Major Blood Components

**Red Blood Cells** carry oxygen to all parts of the body and are used to treat patients who have anemia or who have lost blood due to injury or surgery.

**Platelets** help control bleeding. Platelets are commonly used to treat patients with leukemia or cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy and bone marrow transplants.

**Plasma** is the liquid portion of the blood. It contains clotting factors and vital proteins used to treat critically ill patients who have suffered significant blood loss.

Place Unit Number Here

### Whole Blood Donation

Blood is collected from a vein in the arm into a bag specially designed to store blood. Typically, each donated unit is separated into multiple components, most often Red Blood Cells, Plasma, and Platelets. Whole blood donation is the most common way to donate blood.

### Automated Blood Donation

With automated blood collection, The Blood Center can collect the exact components that patients need, and can collect more of these specific components than can be separated from a unit of whole blood. Blood is collected from a vein in the arm and passed through an apheresis instrument that separates the blood into its components. While the blood is being collected, a small amount of anticoagulant (citrate) is added to the blood to prevent clotting during the procedure. After the targeted component(s) is/are collected, the remainder of the blood is returned to the donor. The donor will receive a saline solution to help replace fluid lost during the automated collection. The body naturally replaces the components that are donated: plasma within several hours, platelets within 24 hours, and red cells in several weeks.

### Adverse Reactions to Donating Blood

While both the whole blood and automated collection processes are normally pleasant experiences, it is possible that short-term side effects can occur such as dizziness, skin irritation, nausea, vomiting, bruising, or fainting. Although remote, it is also possible that bruising around the vein, an infection, or nerve damage can develop during or after phlebotomy, which is the process of drawing the blood. On rare occasions, more severe reactions such as seizures can occur with more serious and long-term complications. In addition, during automated blood collections some common side effects that are easily resolved are due to the anticoagulant and include numbness and tingling sensations, muscle cramping, and chills. Our staff is specially trained to respond to donor reactions.

### Testing of Donated Blood

Donated blood will undergo testing for viral agents and diseases including, but not limited to, HIV and Hepatitis C. Abnormal test results will be reported to the donor and to the donor's parent or legal guardian, if the donor has not yet reached his or her seventeenth birthday. This information is confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone unless specifically authorized by the donor and the donor's parent or legal guardian or required by law. A positive test result for an infectious disease may be reported to the state health department or as otherwise required by law, where exposure to others may be involved.

### Informed Consent – Blood Donation for Minor

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the information provided in this document, and I give permission for my child to donate blood and/or blood components.

### Please print in blue or black ink

Name of Minor:	
Date of Birth: Photo ID may be required to verify date of birth	Age of Donor:
Name of Parent/Legal Guardian:	
Blood Drive/Donor Center Location & Date:	
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:
Telephone # for Verification:	TBC Staff Initials: