

What is the process of donating plasma?

You will undergo the normal screening process for blood donation which includes completing the donor questionnaire, having a one-on-one interview with a SANBS staff member and a mini-medical which includes blood pressure, pulse, hemoglobin and weight assessment. Once accepted, a high-tech machine is used to safely and quickly collect your plasma. A needle is placed in the vein of your arm and blood is collected using a sterile plasma collection set. The plasma collection set is disposable and is used only once. Your red blood cells, platelets and white blood cells are returned to you and at the end of the procedure some saline (sterile salt water) is infused into you to compensate for the around 650ml of plasma we collect. The duration of the whole process is about an hour.

We would like to invite you to become a plasma donor.



Your Blood Saves Lives

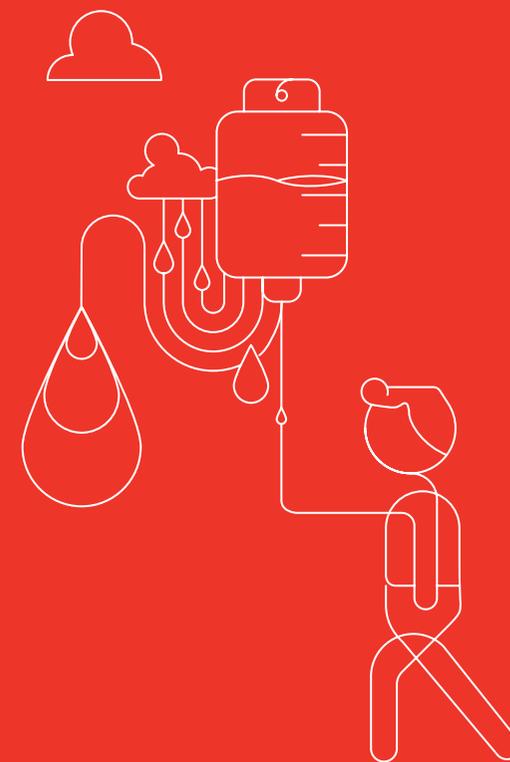
Toll-free 0800 11 90 31

www.sanbs.org.za



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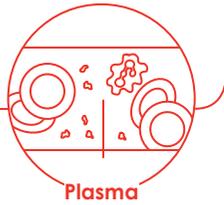
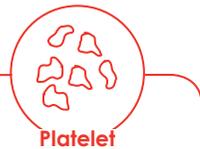
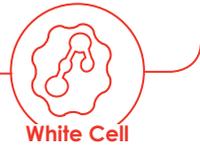
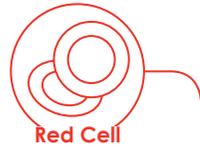


Plasma Donation

What is Plasma?

Plasma is the liquid part of your blood in which red cells, white cells and platelets are suspended. It carries these components throughout the body and makes up about 55% of your total blood volume. Plasma also contains antibodies, clotting factors and proteins such as albumin and fibrinogen.

You donate a bit of plasma when you make a normal whole blood donation, but you can also donate plasma only. This is done through a process called plasmapheresis or source plasma donation where plasma is separated and collected while the red cells, white cells and platelets are returned to your body.



Why donate plasma?

Plasma is essential to saving lives. Clotting factors, antibodies and proteins in plasma can be isolated and concentrated into various essential medicinal products used to treat people with rare, chronic diseases and disorders such as hemophilia, primary immunodeficiency, genetic lung diseases, severe burns, trauma and shock.

“ People with these conditions can live long and productive lives because of these treatments. ”

For more information on plasma products please visit the web site:

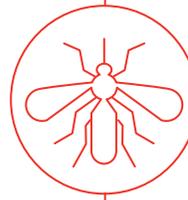
<http://www.nbisa.org.za/index.php/products/30-products/90-pharmaceuticals>

Who should donate plasma?

Although anyone who meets normal donation criteria can donate plasma, we specifically need blood group A and AB donors aged 18 to 65 years to consider donating this special source plasma.

In addition, we would like to invite you to donate plasma even if you:

- have travelled to or come from a Malaria area.
- are on anti-platelet medication such as aspirin and anti-inflammatories.



Why blood group AB?

Blood group AB plasma is in high demand. The reason for this is that group AB plasma is universal; therefore it can be used by anyone regardless of their blood group.

AB

How often can I donate plasma?

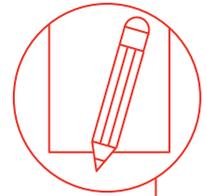
You can donate plasma every two weeks to a maximum of 24 times a year.

24x

Is plasma donation safe?

Donating plasma is generally safe, however side effects can occur. Most side effects are mild and include dehydration, light headedness, fatigue, discomfort or bruising at site of needle insertion.

During the process of plasma donation, an anticoagulant is infused into the blood in the plasma machine before the blood is returned to your body. The anticoagulant is meant to prevent formation of blood clots. Most of the anticoagulant is retained in the plasma but a small amount will enter your blood stream. In some individuals this causes what is called a citrate reaction. This can present as a tingling sensation and or metallic taste. If severe it can lead to muscle twitches and numbness. Citrate reaction is treated with calcium available at the donation centre. In some rare cases plasma donation can lead to more serious side effects.



Where can I donate plasma?

Please speak to your local blood donation centre or contact our toll free number (0800 119 031) to find out where you can donate plasma today.



What about whole blood donation?

Whole blood donations are still vital. Whole blood is used to transfuse people involved in trauma and for management of general medical conditions. Blood group O and B donors should ideally donate whole blood as there is a high demand for whole blood from these groups. Blood group A and AB donors who cannot donate plasma or platelets are more than welcome to donate whole blood. We invite you to find a donation centre near you!