

Blood Donation FAQs

Blood donations performed in the Donor Room at Fresenius Kabi are used strictly for research purposes. The questions in this section provide answers for the most frequently asked questions regarding donating blood for research.

Q: WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF BLOOD DONATIONS?

Basically, there are two main categories of blood donations—manual whole blood and apheresis.

- *Manual Whole Blood:* This type of donation requires a single needlestick. Approximately a pint of blood is drawn and collected into a sterile container. After collection, the blood is separated into its various parts such as red blood cells (carry oxygen), plasma (the yellow liquid part of blood) and platelets (aid in blood clotting).
- *Apheresis:* This is an automated collection procedure performed on an instrument called a blood cell separator. As the blood is collected, it is separated into its various parts. Only certain parts of the blood are collected, and the remaining parts are returned back to the donor. Apheresis is an efficient way to collect a component of blood. For example, it takes approximately 6 whole blood donations to collect a single unit of platelets, which can be collected in one donation during apheresis.

Q: WHAT IS A CLINICAL TRIAL?

A clinical trial is a research study. Trials are performed to assess whether the products we have developed meet specific requirements. The results from clinical trials are often a key research tool for advancing medical knowledge and patient care.

Q: WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO BECOME A DONOR?

The first step in becoming a donor is to see if you qualify. We will conduct a pre-screening interview to gather information on your health history and current medical conditions, including the use of prescription medications, and your ability to meet clinical study requirements. Once it is determined that you qualify, we will schedule an appointment for the donation.

Q: IS DONATING BLOOD SAFE?

Yes. Donating blood is a safe procedure for those that qualify. To determine whether you are healthy enough to donate, a member of the Donor Room staff will review your medical history and take your blood pressure, pulse and temperature. A small drop of blood taken from your finger will also be tested to determine whether your typical blood iron level is high enough to donate. Only sterile, pre-packaged single use disposable blood collection kits are used. There is no risk of contracting AIDS or any other disease. A nurse will remain with you throughout your donation to provide you with one-on-one care and support.

Q: HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO DONATE?

Donation procedure times can vary depending on the type of donation procedure. The typical donation time can range from 1 to 2.5 hours, which includes pre- and post-procedure activities. All donations in the Donor Room are by appointment.

Q: DO DONORS RECEIVE COMPENSATION?

Yes. We understand the value of your time and commitment. This is why we compensate our donors after each blood donation. The amount of compensation will vary based on the type of donation made.

Q: DO YOU OFFER A REFERRAL PROGRAM?

Yes. For each qualified referral that donates blood, you will receive a referral bonus.

Still have questions? Please contact the Donor Room at 847-550-5730 Monday – Friday during regular business hours.