

## WHY are we collecting plasma?

Once the plasma is collected, it is sent to a facility where it is processed and separated into components. The proteins and clotting factors found in the plasma are then manufactured into therapies that treat individuals of all ages who fight chronic diseases, and serious neurological and autoimmune disorders.

## WHAT are some plasma protein therapies?

**Albumin** – Treats burn, trauma and surgery patients. Albumin solutions, prepared from plasma, are used to expand plasma volume in cases of shock, post-burn therapy, and correction of protein loss that may follow major surgery, or trauma.

**Clotting Factors** – Help to prevent uncontrolled bleeding in some people and reduce the chance of stroke in others. Persons with Hemophilia as well as others with blood clotting disorders are largely dependant on concentrates prepared from plasma.

**Immunoglobulins** – Provides a defense against infection for people that have impaired immune systems.

Only through plasma donations can we obtain the proteins, clotting factors and antibodies needed for these and many other plasma protein therapies.

## Will there be any SIDE EFFECTS after donating plasma?

A small number of donors may become light-headed during or immediately after donating plasma. Some donors

may experience a slight bruising at the site of the needle placement. These and other possible side effects will be explained by our medical staff during the donor's first visit to the center.

## HOW do I benefit?

Donating plasma takes time and is a commitment; therefore, donors are compensated for the time they spend donating plasma. In many cases, there is no alternative for the patients who rely on products made from donated plasma, so donor compensation also acts as an incentive to ensure an adequate supply. Most importantly, everyone who needs plasma products benefits from plasma donations.

## HOW are donors compensated?

The industry developed a system of donor compensation that recognizes the substantial commitment of personal time and effort required from donors. Compensation is provided directly to the donor after the donation.

## Where can I find MORE INFORMATION?

If you would like to learn more, contact your local Biotest Plasma Center.

*From Nature for Life*

Biotest Pharmaceuticals Corporation produces source and specialty plasmas for the development and commercialization of therapeutic products for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases and immunological disorders.

[www.biotestplasma.com](http://www.biotestplasma.com)

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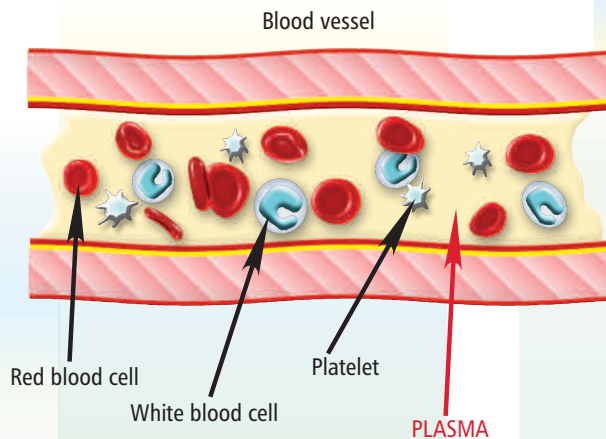


# Donating Plasma

## Questions & Answers for Plasma Donors

## What is PLASMA?

Plasma is straw-colored “liquid” portion of blood which is also composed of a “cellular” portion consisting of red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets.



### Plasma is made up of:

- Water (about 90%)
- Proteins and clotting factors (about 10%)
- Small amounts of salts, glucose, and lipids

It contains important substances like antibodies that protect us from such diseases as hepatitis, rabies, tetanus, and chicken pox; clotting factors that stop bleeding; and proteins that can be vital to the survival of trauma and burn victims.

### WHO can donate Plasma?

Donors must be in good health, 18 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, have valid identification, and proof of a permanent address.

## Are Plasma Donors SCREENED and TESTED?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that all potential plasma donors submit to a pre-donation physical, including medical history questions, tests for transmissible viruses such as hepatitis, HIV, total plasma protein and hematocrit levels. The industry also requires additional donor screening, donor education on high risk behavior and residency requirements.

### HOW OFTEN can I donate Plasma?

You can donate plasma two times in a seven day period, with at least one day interval between donations, because the process returns the red blood cells to your body. It only takes the body typically 24–48 hours to replace the donated plasma proteins and fluid.

### IS IT SAFE to donate Plasma?

Donating plasma is safe. Your donation is made in a highly-controlled environment with professionally trained staff to monitor the process. The supplies used during the donation process are sterile, disposable and used only once to ensure that everything that comes in contact with blood is safe, and to eliminate the risk of transmitting any viral infection.

## Are Biotest Plasma Centers LICENSED and REGULATED?

Our plasma collection centers are routinely inspected and licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA),

as well as various European and Asian agencies, under strict guidelines. The licensing process is intricate to ensure the safety of the donor, and the quality and safety of the plasma collected. Plasma collection centers must also comply with all federal and local business regulations.

### HOW is plasma collected?

Plasmapheresis is a blood donation process in which you only donate the straw-colored “liquid” portion of your blood, the plasma. A needle is placed in the vein of the donor’s arm and the blood is collected utilizing a highly specialized medical device approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This automated instrument then separates the plasma from the bloods cellular portion (red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets) which are then returned to the donor through the same needle with a saline solution to help the body replace the plasma removed from the blood.

### HOW long does it take to donate plasma?

Due to medical health screening and testing requirements, the first visit usually takes about two to three hours. Subsequent visits take about one and a half to two hours with the actual collection process taking approximately 30–60 minutes. During this time you are free to relax, read, study, watch TV, or talk with other donors.