



Most Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I become a blood donor?

Giving blood saves lives. It is that simple and that important. Your blood may save an accident victim, help a premature baby, or be used for sickle cell patients.

Will it hurt?

Giving blood is not painful. You may feel a pinch from the needle in the beginning, lasting only a couple of seconds. Almost everyone feels nervous the first time they give blood. Once you realize how easy it is, you'll wonder why you waited so long.

Why are you asking me now?

One of the biggest reasons people don't give blood is because they were never asked. While 40% of the U.S. population is medically eligible to give blood, only 5% do. The demand for blood is increasing. Only people like you can meet the needs of patients.

Will my blood be wasted?

As stewards of the community blood supply, it is our responsibility to ensure that blood is not wasted. Less than 1% of the blood we collect is discarded as a result of outdated. Because we operate on a community responsibility philosophy, the blood we collect in our service area is shared among all of our service hospitals throughout eastern and southeastern Iowa, western Illinois, Missouri, and southwestern Wisconsin. After local needs are met, MVRBC sends blood to other community blood centers all over the United States that are unable to meet their own needs.

How will my blood be used?

Each donation can help up to 3 patients needing life-saving blood transfusions. Blood components are used to treat chronically transfused patients such as those with cancer and sickle cell anemia. Your donation can also help accident and gunshot victims, organ transplant patients, burn victims, and patients undergoing surgery for various ailments including heart bypass, hip and joint replacement, and ulcers.

Am I eligible to give blood?

Most healthy people are eligible. You must be 17 years old, or 16 years with a signed parental consent form, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in general good health. There is no upper age limit. If you are temporarily deferred, come back later and try again.

What is required of me during the donation?

After you register to donate (photo ID or donor card is required), you will receive educational information on the donation process. You will then proceed with the mini-physical that includes blood pressure, pulse, temperature and red blood cell level. Next, you will be asked to complete a screening interview, which involves a series of health-related questions about your medical history, behaviors of importance to blood safety, and current physical condition. Once it is determined that you are eligible to donate, you proceed with the donation and then enjoy a brief rest period with light refreshments. The entire process takes an hour or less, and actually giving blood takes 5 to 10 minutes.

I'm too busy.

Every year, more than 4 million Americans would die without life-saving blood transfusion. You never know when you or someone you love might be the one. We know you agree an hour is worth someone's life.