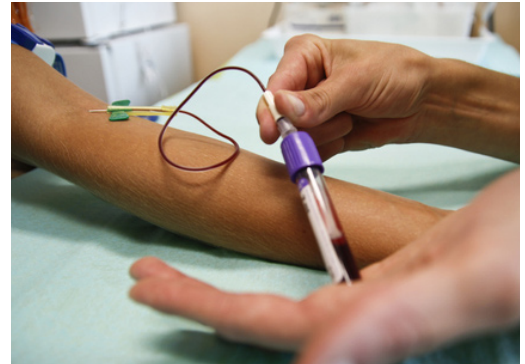


Why Donating Blood is Important!

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Donating blood can save the lives of three people (the blood is separated into red cells, platelets, and plasma). You must be at least 17 years of age and 110 pounds to donate blood. Every blood donor has their temperature, blood pressure, pulse and hemoglobin checked to ensure it is safe for the donor to give blood. The actual blood donation typically takes less than 10-12 minutes. All donated blood is tested for HIV, hepatitis B and C, syphilis and other infectious diseases before it can be released to hospitals. All test results are kept confidential.



Did you know...

- About every 2 seconds someone in the United States needs blood.
- It is estimated that 5 million people in the U.S. are transfused with blood components annually.
- A single car accident victim may need as many as 100 pints of blood.
- One in 10 patients admitted to the hospital needs blood. Average red cell transfusion is 3 pints.
- Blood products are perishable.
 - Donated red cells last only 42 days.
 - Donated platelets last only 5 day
 - Plasma can be frozen for a year.
- The Blood Center of WI needs at least 700 units of blood, 6 days a week every week of the year to meet the demands of WI residents

The main reason donors say they give blood is because they want to help others. A healthy donor may donate red blood cells every 56 days and platelets can be donated as few as 7 days apart, but a maximum of 24 times a year. Donating blood is also a great way to give back to your community. So if you have an hour to spare, go to your local blood donation center (or organize a donation day at your workplace) and save some lives!