



# TIP SHEET

# Donor Center

## Help Our Patients by Donating Blood

During their treatment, cancer patients often need blood or blood products, such as platelets. A reliable daily supply ready for transfusion is essential.

## Why Cancer Patients May Need Blood

Both their disease and treatments can result in blood loss and anemia, or low levels of certain blood cell types. A cancer patient may require a transfusion to address effects from:

- Blood loss during surgery
- Leukemia and other cancers that begin in the bone marrow, where blood cells are created
- Chemotherapy drugs
- Radiation treatments to large areas of bone
- Transplant treatments such as Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) or Peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT)

Less than  
**5%**  
of the population  
donates blood.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Saving lives is easy and rewarding. You may choose to make any of these donations at RPCI:

- **Donate blood.** A whole blood donation takes about 45 minutes. You may donate whole blood every 56 days.
- **Donate Platelets.** Platelets, which provide the clotting factor in blood, have a shelf life of only 5 days. Platelets are needed patients with leukemia, those receiving chemotherapy or undergoing bone marrow transplantation. Donation takes about 1.5 to 2 hours. You may donate platelets every 2 weeks.
- **Donate Platelets/Red Cells.** Donating two critical blood components simultaneously (platelets and red blood cells) can benefit multiple patients. Donation takes approximately 2 hours and you may donate every 56 days.

**You**  
are the only source.  
There is no substitute  
for human blood.

The shelf  
life for blood  
and blood products  
is short. Blood and  
platelets are needed  
everyday at RPCI.

Cancer touches  
everyone.  
Donating blood or  
platelets is a perfect  
way to help.

## Why Donate at RPCI?

- Donors are cared for by our professional nursing staff.
- Donations stay within the hospital to benefit RPCI patients.
- Friends and family members may direct their blood or platelet donation to a loved one.
- Convenient location within a nationally recognized comprehensive cancer center.



**The Donor Center at Roswell Park established one of the first platelet facilities in the nation 50 years ago.**

**Apheresis** (Ay-fur-EE-sis) = the process that separates out one specific blood component, such as platelets, from the blood.

## Donor Criteria

You must be in good general health and:

- At least 17 years old
- Weigh a minimum of 110 pounds
- Not have donated blood in the past 56 days
- Not had a tattoo in the past 12 months
- Have eaten a meal at least 1 to 2 hours before donation

## Contact Us

RPCI Donor Center  
Ground Floor - Main Hospital  
Open 6 days a week, with evening and Saturday hours  
Call 716-845-8275  
[www.roswellpark.org/donorcenter](http://www.roswellpark.org/donorcenter)  
[Facebook.com/roswellparkdonorcenter](https://www.facebook.com/roswellparkdonorcenter)

