



PLATELET INFO

ATLANTA BLOOD SERVICES

What are platelets and why are they important?

Platelets are very small cells, about one-tenth the size of red blood cells. These small cells are created by stem cells in your bone marrow and are circulated throughout the body by your blood. Platelets are important because they help stop bleeding at the site of an injury in the body.

Who needs platelets?

Trauma victims, hospitalized children, surgery and cancer patients all may need platelets. On average a bone or blood marrow transplant patient will use over 30 units of platelets during their treatment and recovery.

Why should I become a platelet donor?

Atlanta simply does not have enough donors to meet the growing need. The various hospital patients we help use on average over 600 platelets per month. Platelets have a shelf life of only 5 days and there are always patients waiting on a hero like you to donate.

Is it safe to donate platelets?

Yes. Atlanta Blood Services uses a special blood donation process called Apheresis (a-pher-e-sis) in which platelets are separated from the rest of the blood. Through Apheresis donation, blood is drawn from your arm using a single needle; it then takes a spin in a centrifuge to separate a portion of your platelets. The remaining blood and platelets are then returned to you. Our clinical staff is specially trained, and the Apheresis computer carefully monitors each donation. Each Apheresis kit is new, sterile and discarded after each use. Finally, each donor receives a health screening to ensure that it is safe for them to donate.

What are the general donor requirements?

- Must have a valid picture ID
- Be between the ages of 17 and 69
- Good general physical health
- Weigh at least 110 pounds
- Have eaten within the past 4 hours
- No aspirin within the past 48 hours
- No tattoos within the past 12 months
- Must not be pregnant
- No cold or flu symptoms

What is the difference between whole blood and platelet donation?

Whole Blood	Platelets
30 - 45 minutes to donate	Up to 2 hours to donate
Ok to donate if you have taken aspirin	No aspirin within 48 hours of donation
Donate every 8 weeks	Donate every 8 days
Takes 8 donations to equal 1 platelet dose	1 donation can equal up to 3 platelet doses!

Where to donate at Atlanta Blood Services?

ABS Northside – The Tower at Northside Hospital
5670 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, Suite 1075
Atlanta, GA 30342 - (404) 459-8744

Mon & Fri	8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tues, Wed, & Thurs	8:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	7:00 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

ABS of Cobb County – White Water Plaza
220 Cobb Parkway North, Suite 100
Marietta, GA 30062 - (404) 459-8744

Mon & Fri	9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tues, Wed, & Thurs	9:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.



ATLANTA
BLOOD SERVICES
Give Blood. Give Life.

Atlanta Blood Services
Phone: (404) 459-8744
Email: ABSInfo@bmtga.com
www.atlantabloodservices.com

