How safe is automated donation for donors?

We care about our blood donors, and your safety is our top priority. It is extremely unlikely to acquire disease from automated donation; a sterile needle and disposable tubing is used for each person. Feeling faint or fatigued after automated donation is rare or minor because the amount of blood collected is based on each unique donor.

What can you donate?

**Platelets**—small, disk-shaped cell fragments that are essential for blood clotting and help control bleeding

→ Needed to support cancer therapy, open heart surgery, blood disorders and organ transplants

**Plasma**—the liquid portion of the blood (92% water, plus proteins and salts) that helps with clotting and protects the body against foreign substances

→ Used to treat burn victims, patients with certain bleeding disorders and for plasma exchanges

**Red blood cells**—tiny, disk-shaped cells that carry oxygen to all parts of the body

→ Needed most after significant blood loss through trauma, surgery or anemia

Who is eligible for automated donation?

People who:

→ Are 17 years of age or older
→ Weigh a minimum of 110 pounds
→ Have not had any tattoos or body piercings within the past year
→ Meet pre-platelet count and pre-hematocrit requirements
→ Are in general good health

If you are interested in helping more people through automated donation, please contact us to verify eligibility criteria and schedule an appointment.

For more information, please contact:

**HOUCHIN COMMUNITY BLOOD BANK**

“People Live When People Give”

5901 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93309
Local: (661) 323-4222
Toll-Free: 1-877-364-5844
www.hcbb.com
How do blood donations help save lives?

- Blood and blood products are needed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for emergencies, surgeries, organ transplants, and to treat burns, injuries, heart disease, cancer, sickle cell anemia and other medical conditions.
- A majority of people will need blood or blood products at some point in their lives, yet only a small percentage of the population donates blood on a regular basis.
- By knowing local hospital daily needs and optimizing donor potential using automation, blood donations can be adapted to meet local patients’ needs.

How many blood components do patients use?

- An organ transplant recipient uses up to 25 units of plasma, 30 units of platelets and 40 units of red blood cells—this many red blood cells alone could amount to nearly five gallons.
- An automobile accident victim uses up to 50 units of red blood cells.
- A heart surgery patient uses six units of red blood cells and six units of platelets.
- A cancer patient uses up to eight units of platelets per week.

What is the difference between whole blood donation and automated donation?

In a whole blood donation, blood is collected and then separated in the lab into three main components: red blood cells, platelets and plasma.

It takes the combined efforts of four to six whole blood donors to produce only one unit of platelets for transfusion.

Through an automated donation, an individual can donate enough platelets in a single donation to provide one or more transfusable patient doses.

Automated collection donors are special. Your donations fulfill the unique needs of patients by providing the right blood components when needed.

"Automated donation takes a bit longer than giving whole blood, but can help more people in the long run. Everyone that works the Trima machines is so fun to be around. They are all really nice."

Carole Daigle, Platelet Donor
and her husband Michael, Blood Donor