

Your single donation... thousands of lives saved

When your blood donation is used for screening cells or antibody identification as a participant in Memorial Blood Centers' Reagent Donor Program, you are single-handedly saving and sustaining the lives of thousands of patients around the world!

WHY IS REAGENT DONATION IMPORTANT?

Reagents are the crucial testing tool used by blood banks and hospitals to identify antibodies in patients' blood, and to ensure every blood transfusion is as safe as possible. Patients are tested with donor reagents to identify harmful antibodies before every blood transfusion.

Antibodies are specialized blood proteins produced by the immune system when foreign substances enter the body. Usually antibodies protect our bodies by fighting infections. However, when antibodies are made in response to foreign blood from a transfusion or pregnancy, these dangerous antibodies start destroying the blood that has been transfused, endangering the patient's health.

ARE THERE SPECIAL CRITERIA FOR BECOMING A REAGENT DONOR?

To determine your eligibility to participate in the Reagent Donor Program, your blood will be tested to identify its unique combination of antigens. Reagent donors' red blood cells contain a rare combination of antigens—substances that cause the body's immune system to react and produce an antibody. Different combinations of these antigens are considered in the manufacturing of blood banking reagents.

HOW ARE REAGENT DONATIONS USED TO SAVE LIVES?

Antibody screening is used to detect the presence of an antibody; identification tests specify the type of antibody that is present. Once a donor's unique antigen combination is determined, they are matched with other donors to create a complimentary test panel used by hospitals and clinics to help save lives.

HOW ARE ANTIBODIES IDENTIFIED?



Reagent donor red cells are mixed with a patient's plasma or serum.



Antibody identification cells are read to determine if the reaction is positive or negative. Agglutination, or clumping the cells, shown above, indicates the presence of an antibody.

ALREADY A REGULAR DONOR? REMEMBER YOUR IRON!

Frequent blood donation can lead to low iron levels. If you donate two or more times a year, you may need an iron supplement. In addition, remember to eat an iron-rich diet by including foods like meat, seafood, poultry, whole grains, beans, peas, dark green vegetables, and iron-fortified cereals.



“As a whole blood donor, I knew my blood was being separated into components to potentially save 3 lives. Then I joined the Reagent Donor Program and realized that with just a single donation I was affecting 130,000 people!”

— Ashley Salmonson, Reagent Donor



**Memorial
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As a reagent blood donor, every generous donation you make goes directly to ensure a better outcome for thousands of patients in need.

Learn more about the role you can play in saving and sustaining lives as a reagent blood donor at **MBC.ORG/PowerOfOne**. Or to contact Memorial Blood Centers' Reagent Donor Program directly, call **651-332-7340**.