

## FAQ about blood donation

### 1) Why should you donate blood at Tata Medical Blood Centre?

- 🔴 Tata Medical Centre is a non-profit, tertiary care oncology center that provides world class affordable treatment and care to cancer patients. Blood transfusion is one of the major supports during cancer treatment and without blood donation, transfusion therapy is not possible. The only source of blood products is from donated human blood which is processed into blood components. Therefore, we humbly request each one to come forward to donate blood, to support treatment of patients who are fighting cancer. Your noble gesture of blood donation will go a long way in saving human lives.

### 2) What are the eligibility criteria for Blood (whole blood/SDP) donation?

- 🔴 Any healthy adult between 18-65 years of age, with a minimum of 45 kg body weight and hemoglobin between 12.5-17.5 g/dL, is eligible for blood donation. For single donor plateletpheresis (SDP), the age limit is 18-60 years and minimum body weight is 60 kg. A blood donor should be in good health, free of any disease/infection, and must be physically/mentally fit at the time of blood donation.

### 3) How many times in a year blood donation is permissible?

- 🔴 The guidelines for blood donation are as per our national regulations. Healthy males can safely donate blood at 3 months interval, and female donors can donate at 4 months intervals. In case of SDP donations, minimum of two days interval is required between two consecutive SDP procedures, and a maximum of 24 plateletpheresis procedures are allowed in a year. The interval between whole blood and SDP donation should be at least 4 weeks.

### 4) How much blood is collected during blood donation?

- 🔴 The quantity of blood collected depends on the body weight of the blood donor. Usually 350 - 450 mL blood is collected from a blood donor, depending on his body weight. However, it is always ensured that the volume of blood collected will not harm the blood donor.

## 5) What is Plateletpheresis?

- When only platelets are collected from a blood donor with the help of an apheresis machine, the process is called Single Donor Plateletpheresis (SDP). The quantity of platelets collected by this process is much greater than that obtained from a whole blood donation. The SDP donor has to undergo certain mandatory screening tests prior to the procedure, to determine his suitability for the procedure. The SDP screening tests take about 1.5 hours and if the donor is found suitable, then the SDP procedure is performed. The SDP procedure takes about 1.5 hours and the procedure is done with prior appointment, to avoid donor waiting.

## 6) What is the timing for blood donation at Tata Medical Center?

- Our blood center is open 24 x 7 x 365 days for issuing blood products to patients. For blood donation the timings are:
  - Monday to Friday 09.00 am to 05.00 pm
  - Saturday 09.00 am to 01.00 pm.

## 7) For patients admitted at Tata Medical Center, why do we prefer to use blood products only from our Blood center?

- Tata Medical Center uses cutting-edge technology using the automated chemiluminescence platform and testing materials of higher generation. This reduces the window period of the tests performed, thereby greatly minimizing the risk of transmitting infections by transfusion and so improves patient safety. In addition, quality checking of the product is maintained at each stage of the transfusion chain, to ensure maximum patient safety. As majority of our patients are immune-suppressed due to cancer, for patient safety, we prefer to use blood and blood components donated and tested at our blood centre.

## 8) Why does TMC Blood Centre often require large number of blood donations?

- During the course of treatment of cancer patients, there could be a need for all types of blood products, in large quantities and that too, over several weeks. Patients suffering from blood cancer, patients undergoing bone-marrow transplantation, those receiving high dose chemotherapy and patients requiring extensive cancer surgery, often need huge number of transfusions as compared to patients with other non-malignant diseases. Therefore at TMC Blood Centre, the demand of blood is always high.

**9) Why patient relatives are requested to donate blood for their patient?**

- Many local NGOs, voluntary blood donor organizations, and adjoining IT offices in the vicinity, liase with us and arrange voluntary blood donors for our patients. In situations where the patient is transfusion dependent for a very long time or the demand is excessive or it is a rare blood group; we approach the patient's relatives and friends and request them to arrange blood donors for their patient.

**10) Does a cancer patient need only platelets or other blood components are also required?**

- Cancer patients may require all types of blood products. These include - Red blood cells, Fresh frozen plasma, Cryo precipitate, Platelets and the requirement depends on the clinical condition of the patient. If the patient develops infection or other complications, then there could be a need for many types of blood products in large quantities.