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## Glossary

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<b>ABO</b>	A system for identifying the major blood groups, depending on the presence or absence of two common antigens labeled A and B. A-type blood has the A antigen. B-type has the B antigen. AB blood has both, and O blood has neither.
<b>Allogeneic donation</b>	A blood donation by a volunteer donor that is intended to be used by someone other than oneself.
<b>Anemia</b>	A condition in which there is reduced oxygen delivery to the tissues due to a reduction in the oxygen-carrying capacity of circulating red cells. It may result from increased destruction of red cells, excessive blood loss or decreased production of red cells.
<b>Antibody</b>	Immune system protein that can react with blood cell antigens and destroy transfused blood cells.
<b>Antigen</b>	A substance that is recognized by the body as being foreign, and as such can trigger an immune response. In blood, antigens are usually, but not exclusively, found on the blood cell surface.
<b>Apheresis</b>	A special blood donation procedure in which only specific blood components (plasma, platelets, red cells or white cells) are collected. Blood is drawn and processed through a cell separator, retaining the desired component and returning the rest to the body.
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<b>Autologous donation</b>	A donation of blood or blood components by a patient for subsequent transfusion to him- or herself.
<b>Blood group</b>	See ABO.
<b>Blood type</b>	The combination of the ABO-blood groups and the positive or negative Rh-factor. See ABO and Rh factor.
<b>Bone marrow</b>	Tissue that produces all blood cells in adults. The bone marrow is found inside the bones, most prominently in the pelvis, long bones and spinal cord.
<b>Cryoprecipitated AHF</b>	Concentrated form of fibrinogen, one of the clotting proteins.

<b>Deferral</b>	Not permitting donors to give blood, either temporarily or permanently, for medical or safety reasons.
<b>Derivatives</b>	Blood products obtained from liquid or frozen plasma units that have been pooled and then chemically separated.
<b>Directed donation</b>	Blood donation designated for transfusion to a specific recipient. Often comes from the friends and family of the recipient. If the intended recipient does not use the blood it may be released for use by other patients.
<b>Factor VIII</b>	The clotting factor protein absent or decreased in patients with Hemophilia A. Also called anti-hemophilic factor.
<b>Fresh Frozen Plasma / FFP</b>	Plasma frozen within 8 hours of collection. See Plasma.
<b>Hematocrit / Hct</b>	A test measuring the percent of red cells in a sample of whole blood, used to test for anemia.

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<b>Hemoglobin / Hgb</b>	A protein in red blood cells containing iron, which is essential for carrying oxygen and gives the red color to healthy blood. Used to test for anemia. Blood donors must meet an established level of hemoglobin before they can donate blood.
<b>Hemophilia</b>	A hereditary bleeding disorder, in which blood does not clot normally. People with the disorder bleed for longer periods of time, which is most concerning when bleeding occurs internally — in the joints, tissues, muscles, and especially the vital organs, such as the brain. Many hemophiliacs rely on regular transfusions of the clotting factor in plasma.
<b>Hepatitis</b>	An inflammation of the liver.
<b>Hepatitis B / HBV</b>	A virus transmitted through blood and other body fluids that causes hepatitis. All blood donations are tested for hepatitis B. Those that test positive are destroyed and the blood donor is permanently disqualified.
<b>Hepatitis C / HCV</b>	A virus that causes hepatitis. All blood donations are tested for the hepatitis C virus. Blood from donors who test positive for HCV antibodies is destroyed.
<b>HIV / Human Immunodeficiency Virus</b>	The virus responsible for AIDS. All blood donations are tested for HIV, and those that test positive are destroyed. Donors with confirmed positive results are permanently disqualified.
<b>HLA / Human Leukocyte Antigen</b>	Any one of a number of genetic markers found on all nucleated cells of the body that determine the tissue type. Matching HLA types is important for organ transplantation. Sometimes platelet transfusions may require HLA typing as well. There are approximately 10,000 HLA types.

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<b>Immune response</b>	The reaction of the body to substances that are foreign or the body thinks are foreign. See antigen.
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<b>Leukocyte</b>	A general term for white blood cells, including granulocyte, lymphocyte, monocyte, etc. Among the functions of the leukocyte are the engulfment of bacteria, fungi and viruses.
<b>National Testing Laboratory</b>	One of nine Red Cross centralized labs where all blood tests on blood donated to the Red Cross are performed.
<b>Plasma</b>	The liquid portion of the blood. It contains coagulation factors and is used to treat patients who develop bleeding problems during major surgery or massive trauma. Because some of the factors lose effectiveness quickly, plasma must be frozen in order to preserve its functions. See Fresh Frozen Plasma.
<b>Platelets</b>	Cellular fragments. Their primary function is to prevent bleeding. They play a part in the body's clotting mechanism.
<b>Pheresis</b>	See Apheresis.
<b>Phlebotomy</b>	The procedure in which one's vein is entered for the purpose of withdrawing blood.
<b>Red blood cells</b>	Blood cells that carry oxygen throughout the body and give blood its red color. They are transfused to people who fail to produce their own, have severe bleeding, or a low blood count.
<b>Rh / Rhesus factor</b>	A specific protein on the surface of red blood cells. The Rh factor can be "+" (present) or "-" (absent) and is usually indicated after the major blood group A, B, AB or O. 85% of people are Rh-positive.
<b>vCJD / variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease</b>	The human form of 'mad cow disease'.
<b>Venipuncture</b>	Entering a vein for the withdrawal of blood or for intravenous medication.
<b>White cells</b>	See Leukocytes.
<b>Whole blood</b>	The blood in veins and arteries. Blood is made up of several elements, each of which performs a special function in the body. The transfusable parts of whole blood are red blood cells, white blood cells, plasma, and platelets.

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