

Reasons to give

All about plasma



American Red Cross

1-800-GIVE-LIFE | redcrossmichigan.org

- **Plasma** is the **liquid yellow portion** derived from your blood or platelet donation.
- Plasma carries nutrients, removes waste and fights infection. It also serves as an energy source, a regulator of body functions, and a coagulation agent.
- Plasma may be processed into several **specialized blood products**. Those products may be **transfused to patients** with **bleeding complications, classic hemophilia** and **clotting disorders**.
- Plasma is also needed for victims of **accidents or shock**, people with **kidney and liver diseases**, patients battling **microbial diseases**, or sick people with **depressed immune systems**.
- Plasma products are **frozen** and kept in inventory until needed by a hospital patient. Frozen plasma can be **stored for up to one year**.
- Just as red cells from a donor with Type O-negative blood can be transfused to most anyone, so can plasma from a donor with **Type AB blood** be **transfused to most any hospital patient**.
- The **RH factor** (the 'negative' or 'positive' in blood type) **is not relevant** for plasma since that factor is present in the red cell membrane.
- Plasma from donors is needed to produce the transfusable plasma products of **cryoprecipitate, fresh frozen plasma** and **cryo-reduced plasma**.
- **Newborn babies** needing plasma transfusions are **given Type AB** since an infant's blood type is generally unknown at birth. Since babies need a minimal amount of plasma during a transfusion, the Red Cross produces a product that contains small amounts of plasma. **Baby split fresh frozen plasma** is manufactured from **AB donors**.



The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood.™