

Double Red Cell Donations

What is a double red cell donation?

Most patients today receive specific blood components (platelets, red blood cells and/or plasma), rather than whole blood. Our new double red cell automated technology is to-date the most efficient, donor-friendly method of collecting the blood components most frequently needed by patients in our community. So if you want to help more patients *and* spend less time at the donor center, a double red-cell donation may be just for you!

Who is eligible to donate using this new technology?

Our community most often needs donations of **Type O and B blood**. If you have these blood types and you meet the donation criteria (see yellow box), then you have the opportunity to make your time count even more so than a whole blood donation... for yourself as well as the patients that need you!

How does a double red cell donation compare to a whole blood donation?

- Automation selectively separates and stores red cells as the remaining product is returned to the donor. With a whole blood donation, the components are separated later in the laboratories and there is no return of components to the donor.
- The double red cell procedure uses a cell separator to collect the blood and provide volume replacement to replace the volume of blood lost by the donors. Whole blood donations use gravity to collect the blood and do not return any volume to the donor. Volume replacement should help you to feel more comfortable after the procedure.
- The double red cell process uses a smaller needle than the whole blood process.
- The amount of red cells you donate is doubled while the amount of time spent in the donation process is lengthened by only approximately 20 minutes!

Eligibility Requirements

Males:

150 lb min. weight

5ft. 1in. min. height

Females:

175 lb. min. weight

5ft 5in min. height

All donors must be at least 17 years of age and in generally good health with a 40% iron level. Double red cell donors are eligible to donate every 112 days (every 16 weeks).



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

Make your next donation a ***double!***
Call **1-800-GIVE LIFE** for more information!