

FAQs About Plasma Donation

Q What is plasma?

A Plasma is the part of your blood that holds various kinds of proteins, including antibodies. These antibodies are much needed for drug and vaccine research.

Q Why is my donation so important and so special?

A Your recent diagnosis may mean your white blood cells are producing disease-related antibodies that are carried in your plasma.

These antibodies are studied by researchers for clues about how disease works.

Antibody research has contributed to development of treatments for multiple sclerosis, cancer, HIV, rheumatoid arthritis, and many other crippling illnesses.

There is a severe shortage of this plasma, and we need your help.

Q Is a plasma donation the same as a blood donation?

A Plasma donation is very similar to blood donation, except it takes longer—usually 45 minutes to an hour.

Q How does the donation work?

A Blood is drawn through an IV in your arm.

The plasma is separated out.

The rest of the blood—red and white blood cells and platelets—is returned to your body, usually through the same IV.

Your body quickly replenishes the donated plasma, generally within 24 hours.

Q What does SeraCare do with my plasma?

A SeraCare purifies the plasma and makes it available to clinical and research laboratories.

Q Is plasma donation safe?

A Yes. Your donation is completed by a trained healthcare professional in a donation center regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

Q Is there discomfort?

A No. In terms of discomfort, plasma donation is the same as blood donation.

Q Are there side effects?

A Side effects are rare, but it is possible to experience a temporary drop in blood pressure or dehydration, which may lead to dizziness, chills, or abdominal cramping.

These side effects are usually managed by raising your legs higher than your head, and taking in fluids.

Extra fluids are recommended before and after plasma donation and they will be offered to you by the donation center.

Q How often can I donate plasma and will I receive payment every time I donate?

A You can donate plasma up to twice per week in most cases, and each donation may qualify for a payment. Mileage expenses may also be reimbursed.

Q Will my donation be private?

A Yes. SeraCare complies with all donor-privacy regulations. Your identity is never disclosed. Only your doctor will know about your decision to donate, unless you choose to tell others about your generous contribution.

We at SeraCare thank you for considering plasma donation.

We hope you make the decision to help.

Contact us at 800.676.1881 or email us at info@seracare.com.