Blood is an Essential Medicine

There Is No Substitute For Human Blood

1% If just 1% more Americans donated blood, shortages would disappear

EVERY 2 SECONDS someone in the U.S. needs blood

29,700 UNITS of red blood cells are used each day in the U.S.

1 IN 7 hospital patients need blood for many reasons, including: trauma, postpartum hemorrhage, cancer, sickle cell disease, hemophilia, kidney disease, liver disease, preterm infants, transplants, critical care and burns

The Components of Blood

Those most needed by patients are:

WHOLE BLOOD
Whole blood contains red cells, white cells and platelets suspended in plasma.
USE: MAJOR TRAUMA/SURGERY, (LIMITED CIVILIAN USE)

RED BLOOD CELLS
Red blood cells carry hemoglobin and are essential for oxygen exchange in the lungs.
USE: ANEMIA, SURGICAL BLOOD LOSS, CHEMOTHERAPY

PLATELETS
Platelets are small cell fragments whose main function is to interact with clotting proteins to stop or prevent bleeding.
USE: THROMBOCYTOPENIA, CONGENITAL AND ACQUIRED PLATELET DISORDERS

PLASMA
Plasma is a fluid, composed of ~92% water and 8% proteins, mineral salts, sugars, fats, hormones and vitamins.
USE: LIVER DISEASE, COAGULOPATHY, ABNORMAL COAGULATION TESTS, COAGULATION FACTOR DEFICIENCY

How Much Does It Take?

A person injured in an automobile accident may need up to

50 RED BLOOD CELL UNITS

A patient with cancer undergoing chemotherapy may need up to

8 PLATELET UNITS PER WEEK

An organ transplant recipient may need up to

25 PLASMA UNITS

30 PLATELET UNITS

40 RED BLOOD CELL UNITS

IT’S THE BLOOD ALREADY ON THE HOSPITAL SHELVES THAT SAVES LIVES.

Regular donation helps to ensure blood is readily available to patients whenever it is needed. Find a Blood Donation Site Near You: aabb.org/DonateBlood