U.S. Blood Supply: From Donor To Patient

**Source:** aabb.org.

**Substitutes for human blood.**

- 1 in 7 People entering a hospital who will need blood.

Every two seconds someone needs blood.

Donated blood has a maximum shelf life of 42 days.

People with type O negative blood, and who are universal donors.

0.0014 people (1 in 700,000) enter a hospital who will need blood.

- 6–7% People with type O negative blood, and who are universal donors.

**Source:** ncbb.org/donate-blood/about-blood/expert-q/blood-facts.

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**DONATION**

1. **RECRUIT**
   - Blood collectors recruit donors to provide lifesaving blood.

2. **SCREEN**
   - Volunteer donors are screened to ensure they meet eligibility requirements to donate blood.

3. **DONATE**
   - Donors give lifesaving blood.

4. **TEST**
   - Blood centers or centralized laboratories test the donated blood to ensure that it is safe and free from infectious diseases.

**PREPARATION**

5. **PREPARE**
   - Blood collectors manufacture the blood into the essential medicine that will ultimately be transfused to patients.

6. **TRANSPORT**
   - Blood collectors pack and transport the blood to the hospital or other providers that will transfuse the blood to patients in need.

7. **ADDITIONAL SAFETY TESTING**
   - The hospital's transfusion service professionals perform additional safety checks on the blood to further protect patients.
   - Some blood will undergo additional testing and/or processing to meet the special transfusion needs of a patient.

**TRANSFUSION**

8. **PATIENT IDENTIFICATION**
   - When a blood transfusion is ordered for a patient, transfusion service professionals follow strict processes for patient identification and compatibility testing to ensure optimal safety.

9. **TRANSFUSION**
   - Patient receives blood transfusion while being closely monitored by hospital staff.

10. **FOLLOW-UP**
    - Patient receives post-transfusion monitoring and follow up from transfusion medicine professionals.

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