

# Automated Red Cell Donations



Now your group members can make an Automated Red Cell Donation and feel twice as good about saving lives. The Automated Red Cell Donation offers many benefits to donors:

- They will be able to help two patients because their donation will result in two red cell therapeutic doses to patients.
- They will find the experience more comfortable because
  - A smaller size needle is used and
  - Their total volume of body fluids is maintained, even after donation.
- They will not need to donate as often and will not be asked to return for at least 112 days.
- They will help increase the supply of red blood cells and meet the critical needs of patients who require their blood type.

Red blood cells are the most often used blood component for surgery, accidents and treatment of blood disorders. Red cells carry oxygen to all the tissues of our body.

## What is an automated donation and how is it different from a whole blood donation?

An automated donation process allows donors to selectively donate only the blood components that are needed most, with the remaining blood components being returned to them. At the same time they will receive saline solution so that their total volume of body fluids is maintained, even after their donation. The entire procedure takes about 45 minutes and uses sterile, single use needles and plastic bags, just as in a whole blood donation.

## Are there any special requirements for an Automated Red Cell Donation?

Yes. The weight and height requirements are different for both men and women.

- Males: Minimum 136 lbs. and 5'1" in height
- Females: Minimum 156 lbs. and 5'5" in height
- Iron Level: For both men and women, hemoglobin must be at least 13.3
- Donation Interval: 112 days or 16 weeks  
(versus 56 days or 8 weeks following a whole blood donation)

## What to consider when selecting donors for Automated Red Cell Donations

- The preferred blood types for Automated Red Cell Donation are: O positive, O negative, B negative, and A negative.
- Automated Red Cell Donors should ***not*** be Platelet Donors. Platelet donors should continue to donate platelets and whole blood because an automated red cell donation will make them ineligible to make any type of donation for 112 days.