

# THE FACTS ABOUT...

## PLASMA COLLECTION

In order to produce life-saving plasma protein therapies, human blood plasma is donated at 530 government-licensed and International Quality Plasma Program-certified (IQPP) source plasma donation centers across the U.S., Europe, and Canada. During the donation process, called plasmapheresis, whole blood is separated into cellular and other components by using specialized medical equipment. The sterile, self-contained, automated process separates red blood cells and other cellular components in the blood, which are then returned to the donor.

This process is repeated several times over approximately one hour until the appropriate amount of plasma is obtained. By returning the donor's red blood cells and other components, donors typically do not feel the fatigue that can be associated with whole blood donation. Because the body replenishes plasma more quickly than red blood cells, plasma donors can donate as frequently as two times in seven days, with at least two days in between donations.

It is **ESSENTIAL** that willing, healthy donors donate plasma because...

**YOUR DONATION MATTERS!**

EVERY YEAR IT TAKES MORE THAN **1200:**  Plasma donations to treat **ONE PATIENT** with **HEMOPHILIA**

MORE THAN **900:**  Plasma donations to treat **ONE ALPHA-1 PATIENT.**

MORE THAN **130:**  Plasma donations to treat **ONE PATIENT** with a **PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY.**

The first plasma donation can take up to three hours and involves completing health screenings, donor education, and the donation process itself. Subsequent plasma donations generally take approximately one-and-a-half to two hours. An individual must donate at least twice in order for the first donation to be used to manufacture final therapies.

In some countries, individuals who donate source plasma are compensated for the significant amount of time it takes to donate and for their commitment to the donation process. Without this compensation, manufacturers would not be able to secure enough plasma to produce the therapies for individuals coping with life-threatening diseases.

Further, since plasma donors live and work in the area, there is additional economic benefit to a community that has a plasma center. Donation fees therefore support the community. Plasma donors are valued individuals who are contributing to the production of life-saving therapies.

YEAR	PLASMA DONATIONS		CENTERS*	
	U.S.	EUROPE	U.S.	EUROPE
2007	15 million	1.3 million	349	25
2012	26.2 million	2.1 million	411	28
2015	35.4 million	2.4 million	530	42

\* Centers refers to the number of government licensed and IQPP-certified source plasma collection centers. The number of centers reflects those operating in the last month of the year.