

# 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

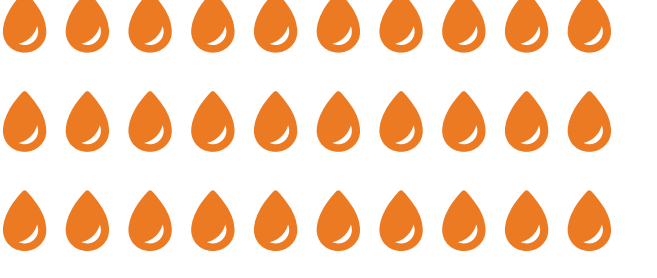
**50**   
RED BLOOD CELL UNITS

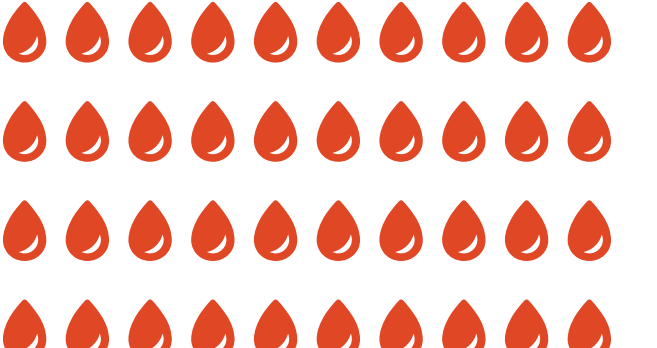
A patient with cancer undergoing chemotherapy may need up to

**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](http://aabb.org/DonateBlood)