

FACT SHEET

Overview of the current blood supply situation

Blood is needed not only to save lives in times of emergencies; it is also needed to sustain the lives of patients who require regular blood transfusions in the hospitals.

These are the leukaemia patients, the haemophiliacs, the thalassaemia patients, patients with bleeding disorders, and also patients undergoing major surgery.

Every day, about 400 units of blood are required by all the hospitals in Singapore for patients requiring blood transfusions. It is crucial for more healthy individuals to come forward to help save and sustain the lives of the vulnerable. Blood donors can give three to four donations a year regularly. Singapore needs more than 500 blood donors to come forward daily to donate blood at the bloodbanks or at bloodmobiles, so as to meet the requirements of the hospitals and to have enough to maintain a healthy stock level for emergencies.

SRC seeks to inform and educate the public on the importance of a constant supply of blood to help ease or prevent acute shortages during festive periods, school breaks and also in times of emergencies.

Different types of blood donation

Whole Blood Donation

Whole blood donation is the collection of a packet of blood directly from the veins of the blood donor. Every blood pack of standard volume collected will be processed into red blood cells, platelets and fresh frozen plasma. Each of these can be used individually for separate patients. Optimising blood usage and benefit through blood component processing technology, each pack of donated blood can potentially be used to help three patients.

Platelet Donation

Platelets transfusions are frequently given to patients who are unable to make enough platelets in their bone marrow and dengue patients with a drastic drop in platelet count, to prevent serious bleeding. Plateletpheresis is a special blood donation process that allows you to give one blood component- platelets, which are the tiny cells that help to stop bleeding. There is plentiful supply of platelets in the blood and very large numbers can be donated with no ill effects. This process takes about 60-90 minutes to complete and you can donate platelets once every four weeks. With just five days' storage life, platelet donations are delivered quickly to the patients who need them. O+, A+ and B+ donors are required.