



WHAT HAPPENS TO AN APHERESIS DONATION

Who is eligible to donate apheresis?

Donors aged 18–70 years are able to begin donating plasma or platelets provided they meet other eligibility criteria. Donors aged 71–80 years must have completed an apheresis donation in Australia in the last 2 years and meet other eligibility criteria. Ongoing suitability and wellbeing of our apheresis donors is assessed by additional blood tests before the first procedure and on an annual basis.

What is apheresis?

The Blood Service collects apheresis donor platelets and/or plasma in a sterile closed system using an automated machine. This process removes the donor blood, separates the platelets and/or plasma for further processing and returns the rest of the blood to the donor. Apheresis donations can be collected at a minimum of two weekly intervals.

What happens at an apheresis plasma donation?

A plasma donation can be up to 800 mL depending on the donor. The donation is collected over 45–60 minutes with the first 30 mL drawn into sample tubes for testing. Intravenous replacement fluid is given back to the donor as part of the process.



What happens at an apheresis platelet donation?

Apheresis platelet donations average 650 mL, containing platelets and about 300 mL of plasma. The donation is collected over 60–80 minutes with the first 30 mL drawn into sample tubes for testing.



What do we do with an apheresis platelet donation?

Apheresis platelets need 'resting' after donation to reduce platelet clumps formed during the collection procedure. They are then stored at room temperature



with gentle agitation until bacterial contamination sampling and laboratory testing is completed.

What do we do with an apheresis plasma donation?

Apheresis plasma can either be sent to CSL for further manufacture into fractionated blood products (e.g. vaccines), divided into two or three packs for clinical fresh frozen plasma use.



What happens to the samples?

All apheresis donations intended for the production of fresh blood components for clinical use, undergo testing in Blood Service laboratories for:

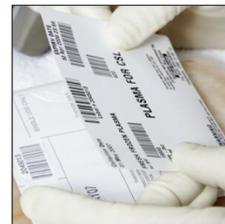
- blood type (ABO and Rh)
- viral screening (HTLV I/II, HIV 1/2, hepatitis B & C)
- red cell antibody screening, and
- syphilis.

When required, additional donor testing can be performed, such as confirmatory testing, CMV screening and malarial antibody screening.



What happens after the samples are tested?

If all donor selection, testing and product quality criteria have been met, the apheresis plasma and platelet donations can be labelled for release and made available in stock inventory.



How are apheresis donations delivered to hospital?

Component orders are packed into shippers according to pack type and component temperature requirements and transported to hospitals and laboratories using a consignment tracking system.

