

# THE FACTS ABOUT...

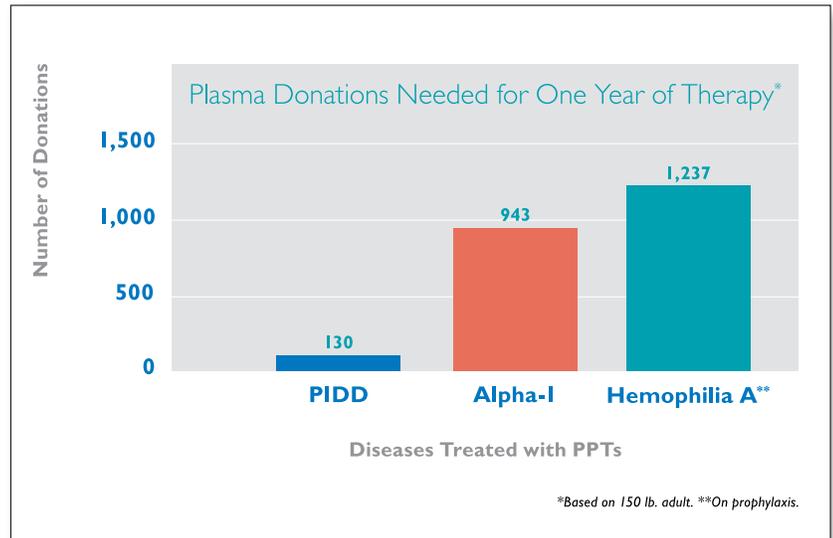
## PLASMA COLLECTION

In order to produce life-saving plasma protein therapies, human blood plasma is donated at 408 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.

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
2008	18.8 million	1.4 million	380	27
2007	15.0 million	1.2 million	349	25
2006	12.5 million	1.1 million	315	25

\*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.

## DONOR SAFETY

Numerous safety measures are in place to help assure a donor's health and safety. First, new donors must pass a medical screening and health questionnaire to be eligible to donate. All donors are tested for eligibility prior to each donation including blood pressure, weight, temperature, total protein and hematocrit. After the initial check-in and health screening procedures are completed, the individual is escorted by center personnel to a comfortable donation bed to prepare to donate. The tubing and all other collection supplies that come in contact with a donor's blood are single-use, sterile materials each time a donation procedure is performed. Plasma collection center personnel are well-trained to provide a safe and comfortable donation experience for individuals using their centers.

# STEPS FOR DONATING PLASMA

## 1. Check in at reception

When a donor enters the plasma donation center, he or she must have a valid form of identification (such as a government-issued driver's license) and proof of a social security number. If the current address is different from what appears on the identification, he or she must have verification of the current address, such as a recently postmarked or dated piece of mail, like a utility bill.

## 2. Health screening and physical exam

In a private room, qualified medical staff at the center will ask questions to verify eligibility as a plasma donor. Vital signs will be checked and a "finger-stick" check will be performed to measure the level of red blood cells and plasma proteins in the blood. Center staff will also record the donor's medical history. If it is the first visit to donate, a file will be prepared to streamline the process the next time.

## 3. Plasmapheresis procedure

Once the health screening and exam is completed, a donor is ready to be escorted to a comfortable, plasma donation bed, where a trained medical

staff person will complete the venipuncture or "blood draw" and will connect the donor with the plasmapheresis device, a specialized piece of medical equipment used to collect plasma. The automated medical device removes whole blood, separates the plasma from the other blood components and then returns those components to the donor. During the procedure, a sterile, single-use medical kit is used, and the donor's blood never leaves the device.

## 4. Thanks for time and commitment

Once a donor has completed plasmapheresis, he or she is able to rest and recover in a dedicated area of the center, and is thanked for the valuable contribution made to the creation of life-saving therapies. The donor also receives compensation for the time and effort involved with donating plasma.

## 5. Schedule the next visit.

Before a donor leaves the center, he or she is encouraged to plan the next visit to donate plasma.

*Information as of May 2009*

### PLASMA COLLECTION

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