

What Happens To My Blood Donation

With lifesaving blood products in constant demand, a donor's precious gift can help save the lives of people in need in as little as 48 hours after being collected.

Twelve different tests are performed on each donation. Acceptable units are usually ready for release to hospitals for transfusion within two days. BBH receives blood orders from hospitals everyday. In general, blood is delivered to most Oahu hospitals twice a day and to most neighbor-island hospitals once a week.

After collection, blood is separated into three different components — platelets, red blood cells and plasma. This separation enables a single donation to help save up to three lives.

Common uses for blood components:

- ◆ Platelets are most commonly used to stop bleeding. Platelets are often needed during chemotherapy. Because they last just five days, they are constantly in demand.
- ◆ Plasma is used to maintain clotting and is used for burns, shock and liver disease. When frozen, it can be stored for up to one year.
- ◆ Red blood cells deliver oxygen to the body and are needed to replenish blood lost during surgeries and for anemia. They last between 35 to 42 days.

Patient Use of Blood Products



Cancer
Patients
35%



Newborns,
Bleeding Ulcers
and other forms
of Treatment
and Surgery
30%



Open Heart
Surgery Patients
25%



Accident
and Trauma
Victims
10%