

# Blood Donation Process



## Step 1:

Welcome! Please complete the donor questionnaire honestly.



## Step 2:

Your details are captured and a fingerprick test is done to check your haemoglobin level.



## Step 3:

Have your medical screening with blood pressure & pulse checked.



## Step 4:

Collect your blood pack and proceed to the donation bed.



## Step 5:

Donate your unit of lifesaving blood. New, sterile equipment is used for every donation.



## Step 6:

Enjoy some refreshments - you are remarkable and deserve it!

# Contact Details



## Telephone numbers

Toll-free	0800 625 663
Main Switchboard	021 507 6300
Head – Medical Division	021 507 6329
Lead Medical Consultant	021 507 6441



## Email

info@wcbs.org.za



## Website

www.wcbs.org.za



## Head Office Address

Western Cape Blood Service  
3 Oude Molen Road, Ndabeni, 7405  
PO Box 79, Howard Place, 7450



## WCBS App

Download on Google Play or App Store



## WhatsApp

060 549 7244

## Find us on social media:



CLN87 (11 Jun 25)



**Western Cape Blood Service**  
Do something remarkable

ALL ABOUT

# Blood Donation



**Western Cape Blood Service**  
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# Journey of Blood

Blood is collected from voluntary donors.



Units are transported to the nearest WCBS offices for testing and processing.



Blood is spun down and separated into different components.



Every unit is blood grouped and tested for HIV, hepatitis B & C, and syphilis.



Blood and blood products are sent to blood banks and emergency blood bank fridges.



Blood is transfused to the recipient. Just 1 donation can save up to 3 lives.



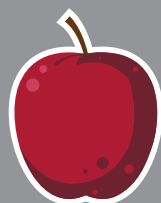
## Basic Donor Criteria



Be between 16 & 75 years old.



Weigh 50kg or more.



Are in good general health.



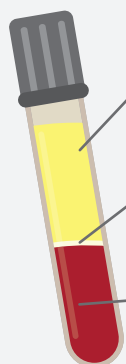
Lead a safe sexual lifestyle.

You can donate blood every 56 days.

It only takes 30 minutes of your time to donate 475ml of whole blood.

## How your blood is used

Blood can be divided into three components:



### Plasma

This contains important clotting proteins and is given to patients with bleeding disorders.

### Platelets

This is given to patients with low platelet counts who are at risk of bleeding, such as leukaemia or cancer patients, or those awaiting an organ transplant.

### Red Blood Cells

This is given to patients who are anaemic or have had blood loss through, for example, trauma, childbirth, or surgery.

## Blood Safety

There are many ways in which WCBS tries to ensure that the blood we collect is as safe as possible for the patient who receives it.

How do we do this?

### Donor Selection

We maintain a donor base of healthy, unpaid donors who donate on a regular basis. This has proven to be the safest source of a low risk blood supply. Our donors are all volunteers - their only reward is knowing they helped save a life.

The safety of our donors is also very important to us, hence our strict criteria about eating and drinking prior to donating and blood pressure checks, to avoid you fainting during or after your donation. We also check your haemoglobin level by fingerprick testing before you donate to make sure that your stores are not compromised by giving blood to someone else.

### Donor Education

In order to sustain a safe and healthy donor base, we educate donors on issues of blood safety, donor health, and healthy lifestyle choices.

### Pre-donation Screening

Donors are subject to strict health and lifestyle criteria and must complete a detailed questionnaire prior to every donation. They are made aware that false or inaccurate information could put their own health and that of the patient at risk.

### Donor Exclusion

Donors who realise they may not have answered the questionnaire truthfully or that their donation may be unsafe in any way may contact the Head - Donor Division directly (see contact details on back) to have their donation withdrawn from the blood supply. The privacy and confidentiality of the donor is strictly protected in these situations.

### Donor Blood Testing

Every single donation is tested for HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and syphilis.

We use nucleic acid testing to detect viral disease, which is one of the most advanced technologies available. All results of infections tested for must be negative before a blood product is labelled and released to our blood banks. When a donor tests positive for one of these infections, they are contacted to arrange counselling, and their unit is removed and incinerated.