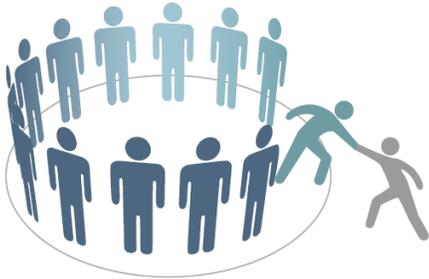


Thank you for your interest in the C.W. Bill Young / Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program, also known as Salute to Life. We work exclusively with active military members and their dependents, DoD civilian employees, Reservists, and Coast Guard and National Guard members to facilitate bone marrow and stem cell donations.

Since our inception in 1991, we have recruited more than 750,000 individuals to fight against blood cancer and other fatal diseases. Each year, more than 20,000 people are diagnosed with diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma, or severe aplastic anemia which require an infusion of blood-producing stem cells (HRSA, 2016). About 70% of patients are unable to find a fully matched donor within their own family and will require an unrelated volunteer donor (NMDP, 2017).



To join through our donor center prospective donors must be:

- ⇒ Active duty U.S. military, member of the Reserves, National Guard, Coast Guard, family members (ID card holders), or DoD civilian employee
- ⇒ Between the ages of 18 and 60
- ⇒ In general good health – For example, we cannot accept donors with HIV, heart disease, autoimmune disorders, hepatitis B or C, kidney or liver disease, bleeding disorders

Registering through Salute to Life costs you nothing and easy. Qualified persons complete a consent form and swab the inside of their cheek using one of our testing kits.

Your sample will be assigned a unique nine-digit number. This Donor Identification Number (DID#) and our stringent privacy policies help protect donors' information. Your Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) type – similar to your blood type – is then determined. These protein markers, used by the body to determine which cells belong and which should be rejected, will govern with whom your tissues “match”. This HLA information is listed by DID# on the national registry database.

When a patient (also called a recipient) requires a stem cell transplant, a doctor will search the national registry for a donor that matches the patient's HLA type. For a rare or unusual HLA type, perhaps only a single match is available; for more common HLA types, there may be several equally well-matched donor options.

Donation occurs in phases. In the first phase, Preliminary Match, several prospective donors might be called for initial screening. Uncertain or unqualified donors are weeded out and a single, fully-committed, best-match donor then proceeds to the second phase. This individual is given a full health assessment and physical examination before moving to the final phase, Donation.

Stem cells can be donated via two different methods:

1 Bone Marrow Donation – traditional method where marrow is removed from the hip bone using a needle. This is done under general anesthesia and requires an overnight stay in a hospital.

No matter the method of donation, <5% of cells are removed and most donors recover fully within two weeks.

2 Peripheral Blood Stem Cell (PBSC) Donation – donor receives several doses of a drug called filgrastim, which causes the bones to release marrow (or stem) cells into the blood. The cells are removed using an apheresis machine, a type of blood screening machine, over several hours at an Apheresis Center.

Final Thoughts

- ⇒ The gifts of hope and health given by donors affect their recipients' entire lives. Our donors are heroes of the highest order.
- ⇒ Save time tomorrow by testing today. You never know when disease may strike. Having your HLA type already recorded in the national database can provide peace of mind.
- ⇒ Testing is free. In fact, our donors do not have to pay for any part of donation – including travel fees and medical expenses.

If you would like to learn more about our program, donation, or ways you can help, please visit our website at www.salutetolife.org, or call us at 1-800-MARROW-3. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DODMarrow>.



www.salutetolife.org * 1-800-MARROW-3 * 11333 Woodglenn Drive, Suite 300, Rockville MD 20852

