



# About Blood Assurance

[www.bloodassurance.org](http://www.bloodassurance.org)  
1-800-962-0628

- Founded in 1972 in Chattanooga, TN as a joint effort of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society, the Chattanooga Area Hospital Council, and the Chattanooga Jaycees
- Licensed by the Tennessee Department of Public Health, the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the Alabama State Board of Health and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- Member of the American Association of Blood Banks, America's Blood Centers, the Tennessee Association of Blood Banks, the Tennessee Hospital Association, and the Chattanooga Area Hospital Council
- Exclusive supplier of blood products for more than 50 area healthcare facilities
- Service region includes 34 counties throughout Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee
- 400 volunteer blood donors are needed daily to meet the needs of area hospitals
- 11 locations: Downtown Chattanooga, Cleveland, Cookeville, Erlanger Baroness Campus, Hixson (North River), East Brainerd (Gunbarrel), and Tullahoma, TN; Cartersville, Dalton, Fort Oglethorpe and Rome, GA
- 11 bloodmobiles: Blood Vessel, Donor Express, Donor Network, Donorsaurus, Life Preserver, Life Safari, Vein Train, Vein Voyager, Bloodhound, Platelet Patrol, Life Bug
- Blood Assurance is a non-profit community agency and does not pay donors for blood



# Blood Donation FAQs

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- **What are the requirements for donating blood?**

Donors must be 17 years of age (16 years old with parental consent), at least 110 lbs., and pass a physical and health history exam.

- **What's the difference between selling plasma and donating blood?**

Volunteer blood donors, not paid blood donors, supply local hospitals with blood products. Blood collected for transfusion in the U.S. is given by volunteer blood donors.

- **How often can I give blood?**

You can donate whole blood every 56 days. Platelet donors can give blood every 7 days up to 24 times per year.

- **Which medications would prevent me from donating blood?**

Blood thinners, such as Coumadin, Heparin, Lovenox and Warfarin. Donors on these medications are eligible to donate seven days after their last dose.

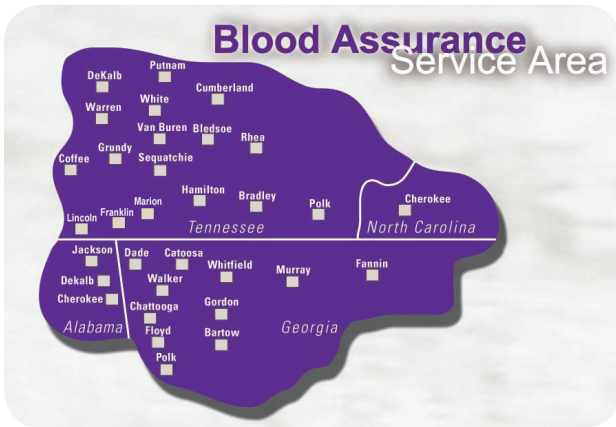
Donors taking these medications are not eligible to donate blood: Proscar, Avodart, Jalyn, Propecia, Accutane, Soriatane, Tegison, growth hormones, insulin from cows, Hepatitis B Immune Globulin and anyone who has received an unlicensed vaccine, usually associated with research.

*\*Donors who are taking antibiotics are eligible to donate 24 hours after taking their last dose.*



# Hospitals & Healthcare Facilities

Served exclusively by Blood Assurance

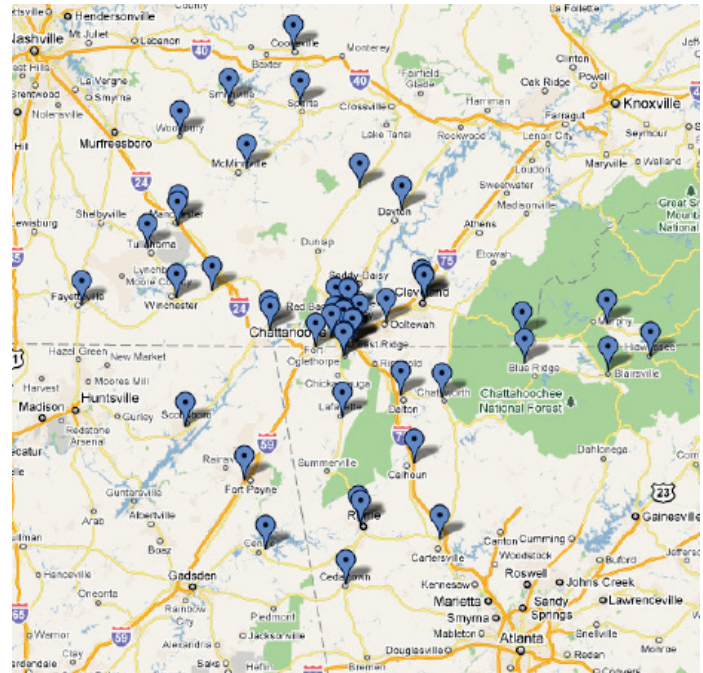


## Quick Facts

400 volunteer donors are needed each day to meet the demands of area hospitals.

There is a 95% chance that an individual will need blood by the age of 72.

Blood collected at our facilities and blood drives are picked up by Blood Assurance couriers and brought to the Blood Assurance laboratory, located at the main office in Chattanooga.



Map of area hospitals supplied exclusively by Blood Assurance. For the most current list of hospitals & healthcare facilities, please visit [www.bloodassurance.org/hospitals](http://www.bloodassurance.org/hospitals).



# Myths *about* donating blood

## **Myth - "You don't want my blood."**

Fact - With less than 10% of the eligible population actually donating blood, we need every able donor to give blood. We perform 13 tests on each unit of blood to ensure that the blood is safe for the recipient.

## **Myth - "I can't give blood because I'm diabetic."**

Fact - Diabetics may donate blood as long as the other medical requirements are met. However, the previous use of bovine-derived insulin (insulin from a cow) will result in deferral from blood donation.

## **Myth - "I can't give blood because I'm scared of needles."**

Fact - It's perfectly normal to feel apprehensive about donating blood for the first time. Donating blood is a momentary discomfort for the donor that can provide a lifetime of difference for the patient.

## **Myth - "I can't give blood because I'm anemic."**

Fact - Your hemoglobin (iron) level will be checked prior to donating blood. As long as levels are normal on the day of donation, you can give blood. We recommend eating meals that are rich in iron leading up to your donation.

## **Myth - "I need my blood."**

Fact - The average adult has approximately 10 pints of blood in his/her body. Your body will replace your

donated red blood cells within 3-4 weeks.

## **Myth - "I can't give blood because I'm on medication."**

Fact - The following medications are the only ones which would prevent you from donating blood: antibiotics\*, blood thinners (such as Coumadin, Heparin, Lovenox, Warfarin), Proscar, Avodart, Jalyn, Propecia, Accutane, Soriatane, Tegison, human-derived growth hormones, bovine insulin, Hepatitis B Immune Globulin, and anyone who has received an unlicensed vaccine, usually associated with research.

*\*Donors who are taking antibiotics are eligible to donate 24 hours after their last dose.*

## **Myth - "I can't donate blood because I had cancer."**

Fact - While some types of cancer such as leukemia and lymphoma (Hodgkins, non-Hodgkins, etc.) will defer a donor permanently, other cancer survivors can donate blood after being in remission for at least one year.

## **Myth - "I can't donate blood because I've been out of the country."**

Fact - Simply traveling outside of the United States will not defer you from donating blood. Temporary restrictions are placed on potential donors who have visited countries with a high risk of malaria. These restrictions change almost yearly, so contact Blood

Assurance to ask about a specific destination.

## **Myth - "I can get paid to donate blood."**

Fact - To protect the safety of the blood supply, our donors are not paid. There are two very distinct divisions of blood banking, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. One consists of non-profit regional blood centers like Blood Assurance who supply blood products to area hospitals. They receive reimbursement from the hospitals for the costs incurred in collecting, testing and shipping the blood. The other division consists of for-profit paid plasma collections, in which people receive monetary compensation for their blood. The FDA does not allow these blood collections to be used for human transfusion. They are most often used in the manufacturing of cosmetic and pharmaceutical products.

## **Myth - "I can't donate because I have a tattoo."**

Fact - If you received your tattoo from a licensed tattoo artist in Alabama, North Carolina or Tennessee, you no longer have to wait one year before donating blood. Tattoos received in Georgia still require a one year deferral.





# Media Resources

[www.bloodassurance.org](http://www.bloodassurance.org)

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Please visit [www.bloodassurance.org/media-resources](http://www.bloodassurance.org/media-resources), where you will find:

- Executive biographies
  - Stock photos
  - Annual reports
- Previous press releases

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