

# BLOOD TYPES AND COMPONENTS

## Blood Has Three Main Components:

1

### RED BLOOD CELLS

- Carry oxygen throughout your body
- Cancer, surgery and trauma patients often receive red cell transfusions
- *Can be stored for up to 42 days after donation*

2

### PLASMA

- The liquid portion of blood that transports red and white blood cells and platelets
- Burn and trauma patients frequently are given plasma transfusions to replace fluid loss
- *Can be stored for up to one year after donation*

3

### PLATELETS

- Aid in clotting process and help stop bleeding
- Cancer and bone marrow transplant patients require platelet transfusions to prevent and control bleeding
- *Can be stored for only five days after donation and testing*

## Distribution Of Blood Types In The U.S.

When you donate blood, you will find out your blood type. Everyone's blood type is unique. Distribution may vary for specific racial and ethnic groups.

