

# Coastal Bend Blood Center

# Quick Facts:

## Apheresis/Automated Donation

### What is apheresis?

Apheresis (ay-fer-EE-sis), or automated donation, is a special blood donation that separates blood components while the blood is drawn instead of in a laboratory following the donation. This technology allows donors to maximize their donations by focusing on the donation of one or more specific blood components at a given time.

### What are the different blood components and how are they used?

- **Platelets** are tiny cells in your blood that are essential for blood clotting. Platelet transfusions often support patients undergoing treatment for cancer or leukemia.
- **Plasma** is the liquid portion of the blood containing critical clotting factors. Plasma is used to treat clotting disorders, burn victims and shock.
- **Red Blood Cells** carry oxygen to all parts of the body. They are used during organ transplants, surgeries and traumas.

### Benefits of Apheresis Donations

- One apheresis platelet donation can yield six to ten times the amount of platelets obtained from one whole blood donation.
- Platelets can be donated up to 24 times per year.
- One “double” red cell automated donation yields two units of red blood cells in a single visit.
- With a red cell automated donation donors give two units every 112 days, as opposed to one unit every 56 days.
- There is a reduced risk of patient reactions from transfusions that provide patients with one or more doses of a blood component from a single donor.

### Platelet Donation Criteria

- at least 17 years old, weigh a minimum 110 lbs. and in general good health
- avoid aspirin, piroxicam (Feldene) and all medications containing these drugs 48 hours before donating
- complete antibiotics on day prior to donation (Tetracycline for acne is okay)

### “Double” Red Cell Automated Donation Criteria

- at least 17 years old and in general good health
- Male: minimum 130 lbs. and 5’1”
- Female: minimum 150 lbs. and 5’5”
- Hemoglobin level: 13.3gm/dl

**For more information**

Call the Coastal Bend Blood Center at 1-800-299-4943 or visit our website at [www.coastalbendbloodcenter.org](http://www.coastalbendbloodcenter.org)