

# Coastal Bend Blood Center

# Quick Facts:

## “Double” Red Cell Automation

More than 60 percent of all needed transfusion units are red cells. A technology, called apheresis or automation, offered by the Coastal Bend Blood Center, makes it possible to donate two units of red blood cells in a single visit. This process means that your donation will count “double,” making it possible to save more lives in the Coastal Bend. While all blood types are needed, this process allows the Blood Center to target specific blood types in immediate demand. As a current or future blood donor, you already understand the importance of helping others. This option provides an easy and convenient way to increase your impact.

### Apheresis/Automation Benefits Everyone

#### Donor Benefits

- Doubles the amount of red cells donated in one visit
- Involves a smaller needle
- Requires fewer visits to the Blood Center (donors give every 112 days instead of every 56 days)

#### Patient Benefits

- Reduces patient exposure to multiple donors
- Provides a consistent dose of red cells

#### Community Benefits

- Helps stabilize inventory of all blood types
- Improves product management, matching donations with the needs of the medical community
- Saves more lives

### What is Apheresis?

- Apheresis 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 one or more specific blood components at a given time.

### The Red Cell Automated Donation Process

- The donation procedure will take about 35-40 minutes using a Haemonetics cell separator. The entire visit to the Blood Center, or a specially-equipped mobile, will take only about an hour.
- Each donation is supervised and is performed using a sterile, single-use disposable unit that fits in the cell separator.
- The process separates red cells and plasma while the blood is being drawn; only the red cells are kept during the donation and the other blood components are returned to the donor.

### Is This Process Safe?

- Yes! The apheresis process is a proven technology that has been in use for several years.
- Yes! While making a “double” red donation, your volume loss is actually less than that of a traditional whole blood donation.
- Yes! Blood never comes in contact with the machine or anyone else’s blood. A disposable, single-use kit fits directly into the machine and is replaced with each donor.

### Red Cell Automated Donation Criteria

- Male: minimum 130 lbs. and 5’1”
- Female: minimum 150 lbs. and 5’5”
- Hemoglobin level: 13.3 gm/dl
- Donation Interval: 112 days versus 56 days for a traditional whole blood donation

**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)