



Central California Blood Center

Be the Match

Join the Marrow Registry

*Serving Central California for
over 50 years*

**Central California Blood
Center locations:
559-389-LIFE (5433)**

**Jenny Eller Donor Center
4343 W. Herndon Avenue
Fresno, CA 93722
Fax 559-225-1602**

**Central Fresno Donor Center
3445 N. First Street
Fresno, CA 93726
Fax 559-224-1373**

**North Fresno Donor Center
8094 N. Cedar Avenue
Fresno, CA 93720
Fax 559-324-1741**

**Visalia Donor Center
1515 S. Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277
Fax 559-625-2136**

**Porterville Donor Center
93 N. Main Street
Porterville, CA 93257
Fax 559-781-5914**

**Central California Blood Center's
Bone Marrow Donor Program
559-389-5433 ext. 5464
Fax: 559-225-1602
E-mail: marrow@donateblood.org**



Why register to donate?

Because you can help save a life. There is a critical need for volunteer donors. Many patients, especially people of color, cannot find a compatible donor among those on the Be the Match Registry. Patients and donors must have matching tissue types, and these matches are found most often between people of the same ethnic group. A large, ethnically diverse group of prospective donors will give more patients a chance for survival.

Who can donate?

If you are in good general health and between the ages of 18 and 60, you may be eligible to join the NMDP Registry, a computerized database of more than six million potential donors.

Steps to joining the registry:

Call the Central California Blood Center's Bone Marrow Donor Program. Then submit a completed questionnaire and give a sample cheek swab, from which scientists will identify your inherited tissue type, known as HLA. Laboratory results are entered into the Registry. Patients who need marrow or blood stem cell transplants search the registry for a compatible donor.

Bone Marrow Donation continued

What is bone marrow?

Marrow is the tissue found inside bones that produces red blood cells and platelets. These vital blood cells fight infection, carry oxygen and help control bleeding. Any disease that attacks the bone marrow can reduce the body's ability to protect itself.

What are peripheral blood stem cells?

Blood stem cells, the cells that transplant patients need to make new healthy marrow, usually live in bone marrow, but are also released in small numbers into the circulating (peripheral) blood. A medication called Filgrastim will dramatically increase the release of blood stem cells into the circulating blood so that enough stem cells for transplant can be collected directly from the blood stream.

Steps to donating marrow or peripheral blood stem cells:

If a donor is chosen for a patient, he or she will meet with a Central California Blood Center representative to learn more about the donation process and undergo further testing. The patient's doctor will decide the type of donation that is best for the patient.

The marrow collection process is a surgical procedure that takes place in the hospital while you receive either regional or general anesthesia. Marrow is collected from the back of the pelvic bone through a sterile needle. Your body replenishes the marrow within several weeks.

For blood stem cell donation, the donor must receive an injection of the blood cell growth factor, filgrastim, for five days leading up to donation. During the collection procedure, blood is removed from one arm and sent through a cell separator machine to collect only the blood stem cells. The remaining blood cells are returned to the donor's other arm. Our body replenishes the blood stem cells within several weeks.

Why are ethnically diverse donors needed?

More people of color are needed on the Registry to help more patients of color find a donor. Because HLA types are inherited, patients are most likely to find a match within their own ethnic or racial group. Unfortunately, of the more than six million volunteers on the Be the Match Registry, only a small percentage are people of color.

Percentage of ethnic groups on the registry:

Caucasian	75%
Hispanic	7%
African-American	8%
Native American	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7%
Multiracial	2%

Funding

When someone volunteers to join the Be the Match Registry, a cheek swab is taken for tissue typing and the cost for the testing is \$52.00. Because funding is limited, you may be asked to make a contribution towards your tissue typing. This contribution is tax deductible. The Central California Blood Center works to secure funding for all donors whenever possible. Please inquire at time of registration.

If you are identified as a marrow match, all medical costs and expenses are covered by the patient or patient's medical insurance.

Other ways to help

Volunteer

Volunteers are needed to organize community marrow drives and screen new donors wishing to join the Be the Match Registry. Please call 389-5433 ext. 5445 to learn more about organizing a drive or becoming a marrow drive volunteer.

Donate platelets

If you've already joined the Registry, consider becoming a platelet donor. Platelet donors offer immediate support to patients with cancer, leukemia and others may need a marrow transplant. Through a special donation process called apheresis, healthy adults can give a single component of their blood, such as platelets. Please call 389-5433, ext. 5461 to learn more about platelet donation or to schedule an appointment.

About the Central California Blood Center

The Central California Blood Center (CCBC) is the sole provider of blood and blood products for the 31 hospitals in Fresno, Tulare, Madera, Kings and Mariposa Counties and must collect between 5,000 to 6,000 pints of blood a month to meet the needs of our Valley community. CCBC is also a recruitment and donor center for the Be the Match Registry (formerly known as the National Marrow Donor Program). Since 1987, the Registry has facilitated more than 20,000 unrelated transplants.

Why help?

Right now, thousands of people with life-threatening diseases like leukemia are waiting for marrow or blood stem cell transplants—procedures that may be their only chance for survival. Every day, 3,000 patients search the Be the Match Registry. Some will have a genetically matched family member who can donate, but most people—about 70% - do not.

Each patient's life depends on finding someone, often within the same ethnic group, who has a compatible tissue type and who is willing to donate marrow or blood stem cells. That person could be you.