

GRANULOCYTE DONATION INFORMATION

Granulocytes are white blood cells (WBCs) that are essential for fighting fungal and bacterial infections especially in immune suppressed patients. The physicians order to transfuse WBCs is an involved, emergent process and will require the family to recruit donors who come from a pool of family members and friends of the patient.

Granulocyte Donation is a 3 Step Procedure

Step 1 – Platelet-Prescreen and Qualification

Inform potential donors that they cannot have taken aspirin or/aspirin containing products within 48 hours of platelet-prescreen

Platelet-Prescreen is done **by appointment only**

Call (713) 792-7777 to schedule an appointment

Three locations available:

Blood Donor Center – Holly Hall – 2555 Holly Hall, just East of Almeda

Blood Donor Center – Mays Clinic (ACB) – 1220 Holcombe, Entrance 5, Floor 2, Elevator S

Potential donors will answer questions about their medical history and donate a unit of platelets, one additional tube will be drawn for testing for WBC donation eligibility.

Step 2 – West Nile Virus Testing and Pre-Donation Medications

Based on the results of testing, donors will receive a call to inform them of qualification status. Once qualified, donors need to contact the patient's coordinator to schedule granulocyte donation.

- The day prior to donation, qualified donors must perform a brief re-screen* and be tested again for West Nile Virus
- Pre-donation medications will be ordered for each individual donor after TMP consultation – corticosteroids and Neupogen to help increase the donors white cell count

* This is performed **only at:**

Blood Donor Center – Holly Hall – 2555 Holly Hall, just east of Almeda

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Monday - Sunday

NOTE: Each successfully tested donor can donate WBCs 4-5 times in a 30-day period

Step 3 – Granulocyte Donation

Donation takes approximately 2 ½ - 3 hours

Donations are performed **only at:**

Blood Donor Center – Holly Hall – 2555 Holly Hall, just east of Almeda

8:00 am – 7 days a week