

WBC General Information

Granulocytes are white blood cells (WBCs) that are essential for fighting fungal and bacterial infections, especially in severely immunosuppressed patients. The physician's order to transfuse granulocytes 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

Potential donors must refrain from taking aspirin, aspirin-containing products, herbal products and energy drinks for 48 hours prior to their platelet prescreen appointment

Call **713-792-7777** to schedule an appointment at any of our 3 fixed site Blood Donor Centers:

Blood Donor Center at Holly Hall – 2555 Holly Hall Street, just east of Alameda Road

Blood Donor Center at Main Hospital – 1515 Holcombe, Floor 2, near Elevator D, B2.4603

Blood Donor Center at Mays Clinic (ACB) – 1220 Holcombe, Entrance 5, Floor 2, near the Tree Sculpture, ACB2.2173

Donation takes approximately **2 hours**. During this screening, potential donors will answer questions regarding their medical history, have a brief physical exam performed, pregnancy screening for females, infectious disease screening drawn and platelets will be collected. A financial credit will be given to the designated patient for the platelet collection. This is a one arm procedure (a needle will be inserted into one arm).

Within **72 hours** after the platelet prescreen, one of our Transfusion Medicine Physicians or Nurses will contact the donor to inform them of their qualification for granulocyte donation. The WBC Coordinator will then schedule their pre-donation screening and granulocyte donation.

Step 2 – WBC Pre-Donation Screening and Medications

The donor does not need an appointment for this screening, but should present to the Holly Hall Blood Donor Center between 1:00-5:00pm the day prior to their scheduled donation. If you are unable to arrive at the donor center prior to 5:00pm, please call to make other arrangements. Any medications not picked up by 5:00pm or arranged to pick up at an alternate time will be returned to the pharmacy and the donation will be cancelled.

During this step, the donor will have additional infectious disease screening, pregnancy screening for females, and will receive their stimulation medications. This appointment takes approximately **30 minutes** to complete.

The medications will be self-administered by the donor at 8:00pm the night prior to donation. Instructions for self-administration will be provided during the screening appointment.

Step 3 – Granulocyte Donation

Donation starts at **8:00am** and takes approximately **2.5-3 hours**. This is a two arm procedure (needles will be in both arms simultaneously).

Donations are only performed at the Holly Hall Blood Donor Center.