



### Independent Blood Centers in Your Community

America's Blood Centers (ABC) is North America's largest network of non-profit community blood centers. Collectively, our member blood centers provide more than half of the blood supply in the United States and operate more than 600 blood donation sites that produce over 12 million units of whole blood and blood components providing service to over 3,500 hospitals and healthcare facilities.

ABC member blood centers work in a highly regulated arena and are driven by a profound commitment to safety and quality. The altruistic gift of blood from millions of donors nationwide each year is unique within the healthcare sector and provides inherent challenges and opportunities.

- **The U.S. blood supply must cover every day needs and unexpected disasters.** Approximately 25 percent of the care delivered in acute care facilities in the U.S. requires a robust blood supply, whether blood is actually used or not. The availability of that blood, whether transfused or not, is what we call its "insurance value."
- **Blood on the shelf saves lives.** Most blood products have a short shelf life and must be constantly replenished. Blood products also require special, tightly controlled storage requirements. Additionally, it takes at least 24 hours to test and release blood products for use and the four unique blood types are not all interchangeable. These circumstances make blood a national priority that must always be on hand for use in everyday, acute, and emergency situations.
- **A pool of volunteer blood donors ensures that blood is ready (collected and tested) and available year-round whenever and wherever it is needed.** Each year, more than 6.8 million volunteer donors visit blood centers. This positions ABC members with a distinct role in providing access to healthy donors and diverse populations throughout the country.
- **In addition to its use in acute bleeding and anemia, blood and blood components must be available to support care for any number of conditions,** including cancer treatment, orthopedic surgeries, organ and marrow transplants, cardiovascular surgeries, and treatment for inherited blood disorders. Every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood. A pint of donated whole blood can save up to three lives.
- **The blood supply is extremely safe.** All blood centers strictly follow safety procedures related to blood donor eligibility standards, donor record checks, and laboratory testing. In total, 13 tests – 10 for infectious diseases – are performed at this time on each unit of donated blood. A strict screening process also helps ensure the safety of blood, as blood centers are licensed and strictly regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- **ABC member blood centers employ more than 20,000 people and serve more than 2.9 million blood recipients.**