



MARROW  
REGISTRY



# NEW DONOR INFORMATION

## WHAT IS BONE MARROW DONATION?

For some patients suffering from life-threatening diseases such as leukemia and other blood cancers, their only option for a cure and survival is a bone marrow transplant. Some patients have a family member who can donate, but in 70% of cases a volunteer donor is required. The Gift of Life Marrow Registry recruits donors who can donate to patients if they have a matching tissue type.

For more information visit [giftoflife.org/donors](http://giftoflife.org/donors)

## HOW DO I JOIN THE MARROW REGISTRY?

Today you can take the first step in the process and join the bone marrow registry. Give a quick and painless cheek swab, complete a form and give your consent. We will test the cheek swab and add your tissue type to the registry, which is searched by hospitals worldwide. Continue reading to learn about the two methods of donating bone marrow or stem cells, should you be called upon in the future.

## DONATING PERIPHERAL BLOOD STEM CELLS

80% of donors give peripheral blood stem cells from their circulating blood. To obtain enough cells for transplant, a donor is given injections of Filgrastim that stimulate large quantities of stem cells to mobilize from the bone marrow into the circulating blood. At a hospital or clinic the donor is connected to an apheresis machine for 4-5 hours and the stem cells are harvested. In rare cases the collection may take place over two days.

## DONATING BONE MARROW

20% of people donate bone marrow which is found in the hollow cavities of large bones. It is withdrawn from the pelvic bone in an area called the iliac crest. The bone marrow is collected as an outpatient procedure in a hospital operating room under general anesthesia. Marrow regenerates completely within four to six weeks. Donors usually go home after the donation and should anticipate taking a few days off after the collection to recover.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- You may be a match for ANY patient worldwide
- The donation process is anonymous
- If you are requested to donate for a patient, this will take approximately 40 hours over a 4-6 week period
- If you donate, the donation and blood tests involve the use of needles
- You must be 18-45 years old to register

