

share



life

Join the Marrow Registry

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 RegistrySM. 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.

Steps to joining the registry:

Call Puget Sound Blood Center's Bone Marrow Donor Program. Then submit a completed questionnaire and give a simple cheek swab, from which scientists will identify your inherited tissue type, known as HLA, or human leukocyte antigen type. Laboratory results are entered into the Registry.

Patients who need marrow or blood stem cell transplants search the Registry for a compatible donor.

Who can donate?

If you are in good health and between the ages of 18 and 60, you may be eligible to join the Registry, a computerized database of more than 8 million potential donors.

What is bone marrow?

Marrow is the tissue found inside bones that produces red blood cells, white 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 Puget Sound Blood Center representative to learn more about the donation process and undergo further testing. The patient's physician determines the type of donation that is best for the patient.

The marrow collection process is a surgical procedure that occurs in the hospital while you receive 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 prior 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. Your 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 8 million volunteers on the Be The Match RegistrySM, only a small percentage are people of color.

Percentage of ethnic groups on the national registry:

- Caucasian 73%
- Hispanic 9%
- African-American 8%
- Native American 1%
- Asian/Pacific Islander 8%
- Multiracial 3%

Funding

When someone volunteers to join the Be The Match RegistrySM, a cheek swab is taken for tissue typing. Federal funds are available to cover testing costs for people of color because of the critical need for ethnic diversity on the Registry. Puget Sound Blood Center works to secure funding to help cover testing costs for all donors when possible. Because funding is limited, you may be asked to make a financial contribution. This contribution is tax deductible. If you are identified as a match for a patient, all medical costs and expenses are covered by the patient or patient's medical insurance.



Join the Marrow Registry continued

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, 6,000 patients search the Registry. Some will have a genetically matched family member who can donate, but most people – about 70 percent – 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.

Other ways to help

Volunteer

Volunteers are needed to organize community marrow drives and screen new donors wishing to join the Be The Match RegistrySM. Please call 1-800-DONATE-1, ext.1897, 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 who 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 1-800-398-7888 to learn more about platelet donation or to schedule an appointment.

About Puget Sound Blood Center

Puget Sound Blood Center is an independent, volunteer supported nonprofit community resource. It is a key link in the healthcare network, providing blood, tissue and specialized laboratory services across the Northwest. Blood Center physicians offer 24-hour consultation to the medical community on transfusion and transplantation medicine issues, and provide valuable education and research aimed at improving patient care.

How is Puget Sound Blood Center involved?

Puget Sound Blood Center is a recruitment and donor center for the Be The Match RegistrySM and National Marrow Donor Program. Since 1987, the Registry has facilitated more than 35,000 unrelated transplants. The Blood Center has registered more than 70,000 potential donors from Western Washington and Alaska.

The Blood Center also recruits ethnic minority blood donors through its Perfect Match Program. This program helps to create a blood supply that is more ethnically diverse – and that improves care for patients with rare blood antigens.

Puget Sound Blood Center locations:

Bellevue Center

1021 – 112th Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Bellingham Center

1125 East Sunset Dr. #105
Bellingham, WA 98226

Central Seattle

921 Terry Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Everett Center

2703 Oakes Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

Federal Way Center

1414 S 324TH Street
Suite B101
Federal Way, WA 98003

Lynnwood Center

19723 Highway 99, Suite F
Lynnwood, WA 98036

North Seattle Center

10357 Stone Avenue N.
Seattle, WA 98133

Olympia Center

1220 Eastside Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Silverdale Center

3230 NW Randall Way
Silverdale, WA 98383

Tukwila Center

130 Andover Park East
Tukwila, WA 98188

Vancouver Center

9320 NE Vancouver Mall Drive
Suite 100
Vancouver, WA 98662

Bone Marrow Donor Program

Puget Sound Blood Center
921 Terry Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1256
1-800-366-2831 x1897

bonemarrow@psbc.org

<http://www.psbcc.org/programs/marrow.htm>

