



Blood Drive Coordinator's Guide to Double Red Cell Donations

Red blood cells carry oxygen to all parts of the body. Because of this, they are the most frequently used blood component and are needed by every type of patient who requires a transfusion. Patients in the emergency room, accident victims undergoing surgery, those with sickle cell disease, and premature babies all need red blood cells.

You have an opportunity to double your impact at your blood drive and have a greater impact on patients in need by encouraging double red cell donations (“double reds”).



Why collecting double reds is important:

- Allows donors to make twice the difference by giving two units of red cells at one blood drive
- Better meets patient needs by maximizing each donation

More convenient for the donor:

- Fewer trips (once every 16 weeks) to the donor center or blood drive
- Fewer phone calls
- Not much longer than a whole blood donation – only around 15 minutes longer

May be more comfortable for the donor:

- Fluids are returned to your body, so you typically feel better after
- Single-arm procedure with a smaller needle
- Some donors say it's a more comfortable experience

What are the eligibility requirements?

In addition to meeting other blood donor qualifications, donors must meet minimum height and weight requirements:

	FEMALE	MALE
Minimum Height	5'5"	5'1"
Minimum Weight	150 lbs	130 lbs

Eligible donors who give double red cells exclusively can donate them every 112 days (or 16 weeks), up to three times per year. Your eligibility to give double red cells may differ if you also give other types of blood donations, such as whole blood.

Scan to learn more



Your role as the blood drive coordinator

1. Double your impact at your blood drive by collecting more blood products to help patients in your community.
2. Help your donors understand the benefits and need for double red cell donations.
3. Schedule double red cell donors based on which blood types are needed and meet the requirements. (Your account representative will share this information during blood drive planning.)
 - a. When in doubt, recruit O donors because their blood type is “universal” for other blood types.
4. Ask donors to consider making a double red cell donation, as they can help several patients in a single donation. One donation can save up to 6 lives!

Thank you for making a connection that will help save lives.

For more information on this technology, contact your account representative.

Red cell donations are known as “double reds” because twice as many red cells are collected.

