Why Apheresis?

Every day, platelets help save lives in our community. Patients undergoing treatments for cancer, open-heart surgery, or involved in an accident, often require platelets to survive. The need is constant. And the fact that platelets have only a five-day shelf life means that the need for donors is also constant.

It’s good for the patient, because a platelet transfusion from a single donor has proven to be advantageous over a transfusion that comes from many donors. In fact, at least six (6) whole blood donations would be required to provide the same platelet dosage found in a single apheresis donation. And because you are able to donate more often, you help even more patients through the apheresis program.

It’s good for the donor, because your blood components can be put to work in a way that matches the needs of area patients. You are able to maximize the time you spend donating, doing even more to help those who need it. And since you are giving just a portion of your blood, your recovery time from donation will be reduced.

For more information or to schedule a platelet apheresis appointment, please call:

Springfield, MO - 417-227-5004
Springdale, AR - 479-927-1200

or visit us online at
www.cbco.org
Are there benefits for the donor?

Although all blood donors are valuable, an apheresis donor is something special. Donations take a little longer, and you can give more often. For those reasons, Apheresis donors enjoy special benefits, including:

**Comfort** – Apheresis donors enjoy comfortable donor beds, personal TV's, snacks and special attention from staff. The needle is also smaller than what is used for whole blood donors, increasing the comfort level even more!

We also want to recognize your extraordinary commitment to patient care, so there are other exclusive benefits!

**Events** - CBCO Apheresis donors are invited to a special recognition banquet each year and participate in special events during the holidays.

**Appreciation Gifts** – Because you’re part of an elite group, you’ll be recognized and rewarded for your commitment in many different ways!

Those who are new to the apheresis program will receive a special gift at the first, second, and third donations.

Since you’re able to give more often, your donations will add up quickly! When you reach milestone donation levels, you’ll receive great gifts such as clocks, coolers, blankets, and jackets.

Who will I help?

Although the number of people who give platelet-apheresis is relatively small, your effect on the health of the community is tremendous. Many lifesaving medical treatments require platelet transfusions. Cancer patients, those receiving organ or bone marrow transplants, victims of traumatic injuries, and patients undergoing open heart surgery require platelet transfusions to survive.

What is Apheresis?

Apheresis (A-fur-EE-sis) is a special kind of donation that allows a donor to give specific blood components, such as plasma or platelets. Apheresis donations are available only at selected CBCO fixed site donor centers.

Blood is a mixture of red cells, white cells, plasma and platelets. During an apheresis procedure, blood is drawn from the donor’s arm through sterile tubing into a specialized instrument which separates the blood into components. The desired component is collected in a special bag, and the remaining components are returned to the donor.

Is it safe?

Donor and patient safety are our top priorities here at CBCO, so you can rest assured that the process is very safe. The tubing set, including the needle, is a sterile and single-use unit. Most donors actually report that they feel better after giving platelet-apheresis, since their red cells are returned to them during the donation.

The Donation Process

**Registration/Health History** - After you show your photo ID, you’ll answer a series of questions to determine your eligibility.

**Mini-Physical** - We’ll check your vital signs and test a tiny drop of your blood for proper iron levels.

**Donation** - Sit back and relax. You’re saving lives here, and it’s really very easy. You’ll get great refreshments after you give.