



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

Blood Components

Whole Blood

for severe
blood loss

Mechanical Separation

Plasma

Used to help treat victims of burn, shock or dehydration. It can be frozen and stored for up to one year.

Red Cells

Used for surgical and trauma patients, as well as for medical patients with anemia, such as dialysis patients. Red cells can be stored refrigerated for 42 days.

Platelets

Used to help control bleeding. They are given to help treat leukemia patients and other cancer patients who are undergoing chemotherapy. Platelets have a short life span of just five days.