

We have 14 donation centres around England



- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 Chelmsford | 8 Tottenham     |
| 2 Croydon    | 9 Wolverhampton |
| 3 Birmingham | 10 Bristol      |
| 4 Stratford  | 11 Bolton       |
| 5 Twickenham | 12 Stockton     |
| 6 Coventry   | 13 Barnsley     |
| 7 Reading    | 14 Manchester   |

To find out more visit [blood.co.uk/plasma](http://blood.co.uk/plasma) or call 0300 123 2323



Seven-year-old Erin from Colchester relies on plasma medicines to treat a life-threatening disease.

Erin has immune thrombocytopenia (ITP). Her immune system destroys her platelets which stops

her blood from clotting. This means Erin can bleed or bruise even without the normal bumps and scrapes of childhood. If she bleeds, Erin is given immunoglobulins made from plasma, which stops her platelets being destroyed and means her bleeding stops. Erin has a range of other life-limiting conditions but lives life to the full thanks to donors and specialist treatment.

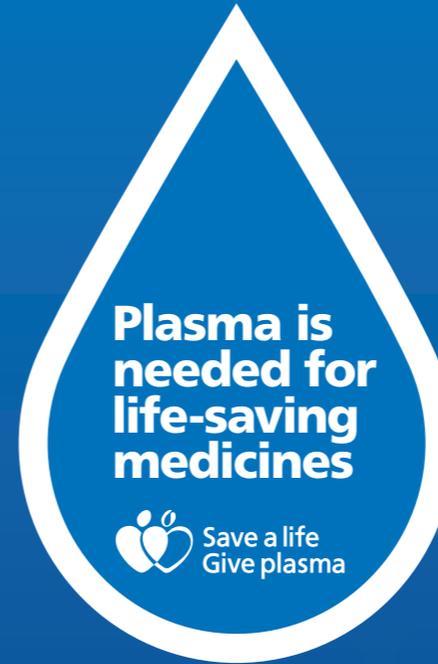
*"She's a tornado of energy, cheeky and full of life. She loves dancing and singing. She is vulnerable, but she keeps going,"* said mum Helen.

Every three weeks, Simone receives intravenous immunoglobulins (IVIG), made from donated plasma, to help her fight potentially life-threatening infections.



Simone has primary immunodeficiency, a genetic disorder, and also suffers from a form of cystic fibrosis, which leaves her vulnerable to infections.

*"I want people to understand that their plasma donations are liquid gold,"* said Simone.



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NHS

Blood and Transplant

# Give plasma

## Your plasma can make life-saving medicines

Save a life Give plasma

## What is plasma?

**Plasma is the liquid part of blood. It carries red blood cells, platelets and other cells around the body. When these cells are removed from blood we are left with a clear yellow liquid.**

Plasma makes up approximately 55% of your blood, and contains important proteins such as:

- antibodies, or immunoglobulins, which fight infection
- clotting factors which work with platelets to stop bleeding and bruising



**55%**  
plasma

**4%**  
platelets and  
white blood cells

**41%**  
red blood cells

## How will my plasma be used?

Your plasma will be frozen to ensure that important proteins remain active. It will be used to manufacture immunoglobulin-containing medicines. These medicines are made by mixing plasma from hundreds of donations and then separating out the immunoglobulins from the other proteins in plasma.

### Who needs immunoglobulins?

Immunoglobulins are needed by patients who have genetic conditions and rare immune disorders that mean they can't fight off infection.

Many other patients can benefit from immunoglobulin treatment, including people with diseases affecting their kidneys, blood and nervous system. For example, children with Kawasaki disease, who don't receive treatment, can suffer serious complications that affect their hearts.

### Why are we collecting now?

Until recently, plasma for medicines had to be sourced from overseas. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has now asked us to collect plasma here in England.

There is increasing demand for plasma around the world amidst a worldwide shortage of donors.

Plasma collected in England will be used to manufacture medicines to treat NHS patients.

## Donating plasma

Donating plasma is a lot like giving blood. It's safe, easy and painless. The main difference is that plasma donation uses a process called apheresis. Blood is drawn into an apheresis machine where it is spun and separated into its component parts. Plasma is collected in a bag whilst the remaining blood is returned back to you.

Plasma donation takes about 45 minutes but the total time you should expect to be at the donation centre is for around 75 minutes.



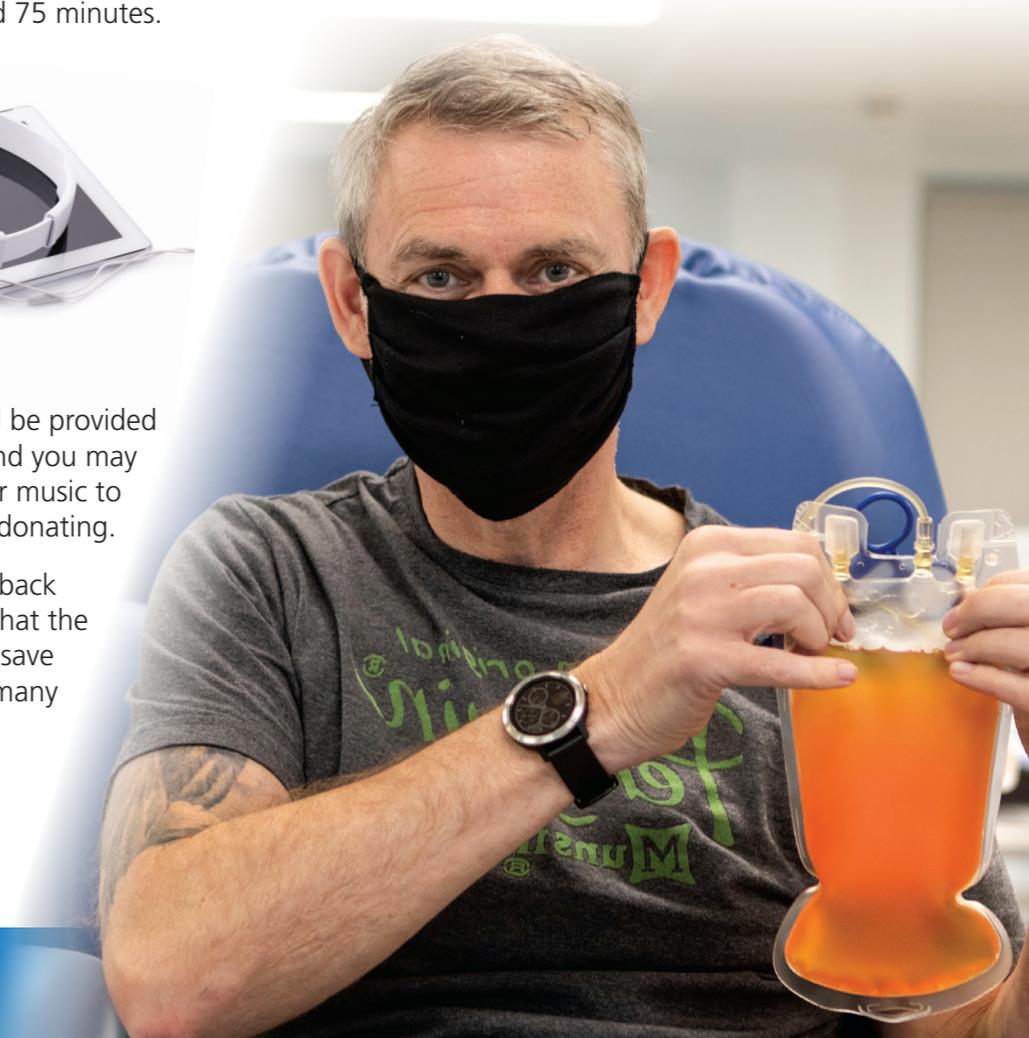
Snacks and refreshments will be provided throughout your donation and you may like to bring a book, tablet or music to keep you entertained whilst donating.

Alternatively you can just sit back and relax in the knowledge that the time you are giving will help save and enhance the lives of so many others.

## Who can donate?

Anyone between the ages of 18-65 can donate plasma.

However, it is found that men are most likely able to donate as they have larger veins and a higher height to weight ratio. We will discuss your eligibility with you when booking your appointment.



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