

# PROCEDURE: PLASMAPHERESIS DONATION

## DESCRIPTION:

Plasma refers to the “liquid” portion of the blood which contains proteins, electrolytes, vitamins, hormones, etc. It does not include the red blood cells, white blood cells or platelets. Plasma exchange is a procedure in which a machine separates and removes the donor’s plasma and returns the red cells. Many types of machines are available: The most common ones use a centrifuge to separate the blood into its different parts. A solution containing citrate is used to keep your blood from clotting during the treatment.



## REASON FOR THE PROCEDURE

Plasmapheresis is used when a donation of plasma is desired to produce treatment products for medical care. The goal is to collect immune proteins, called antibodies, from a donor who has these immune proteins in large amounts after recovering from COVID-19. This is a normal response after an infection. Antibodies from recovered donors have been used to be transfused to treat other individuals sick with the same disease in the past. Antibodies for transfusion are also used to treat individuals who lack the ability to produce them.

## COLLECTION PROCESS

This donor process requires a venipuncture in order to draw the blood needed for the procedure. This process uses blood that is drawn and returned to the same arm.

## DURATION

This is different from patient to patient, but an average plasma exchange procedure lasts about 45 minutes.

## RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

Plasmapheresis is a safe procedure but side effects can occur. Common side effects include fatigue, nausea, dizziness, feeling cold and tingling in the fingers and around the mouth, allergic reaction, and lowered blood pressure. It is very important to notify medical staff if these symptoms occur. Serious complications such as abnormal heart beat, seizures, electrolyte abnormalities, and unexplained bleeding are extremely rare.

## NUMBER OF PROCURED THAT ARE REQUESTED

A donor can give plasma for this protocol once a week. After each 90 days, the donor’s antibody level will be checked to be sure it remains high.