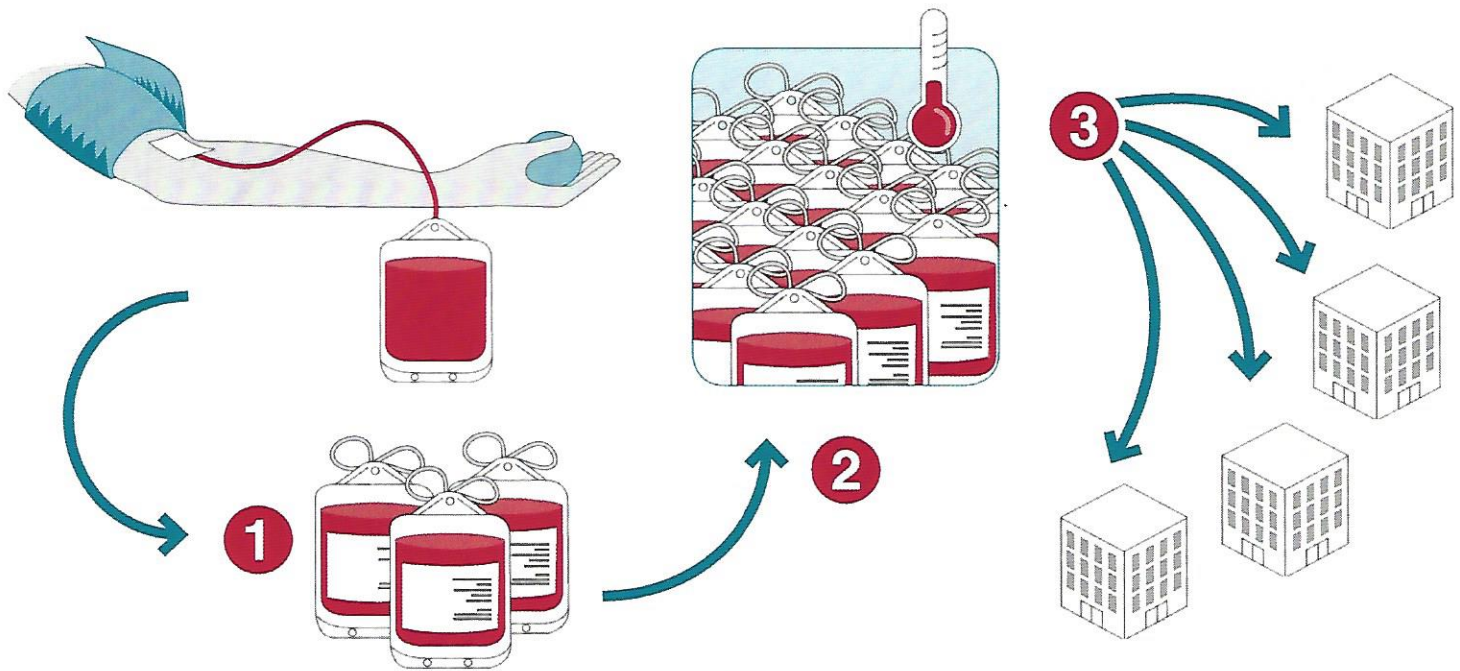


# What Happens to Your Blood?



## 1 Typing and testing

Your blood is typed: O, A, B or AB, as well as Rh factor (either positive or negative). Your blood is also tested for infectious diseases such as syphilis, hepatitis B and C, HIV and West Nile virus.

### Blood components

Whole Blood is routinely separated into components that can be transfused together or separately. Most patients need only one or two parts of the blood, so dividing blood into three parts saves multiple lives.

**Plasma** is the fluid that transports blood cells and proteins. It assists in clotting and maintaining blood volume.

**Platelets** are parts of cells that help blood clot. They are generally used for leukemia and cancer patients.

**Red cells** carry oxygen. They are used to treat anemia and loss of blood from surgery and/or trauma.

## 2 Storage

After being separated, typed and tested, blood is labeled by blood group and expiration date. It is then stored for distribution. From the time they are drawn, red blood cells can be stored for up to 42 days, and platelets can be stored for up to five days.

## 3 Withdrawal

Just like a regular bank, the blood in the blood bank is taken out of storage when needed. Hospitals work closely with blood banks so that when a certain type of blood is needed it can be supplied quickly.

### Giving blood has its rewards!

- You receive a mini physical each time you donate
- Get your cholesterol test results by calling 1-800-366-2834 or logging on to [CarterBloodCare.org](http://CarterBloodCare.org)
- Earn points each donation to redeem for items in the Great Partners Rewards store
- You know you are a part of saving up to three lives in your community