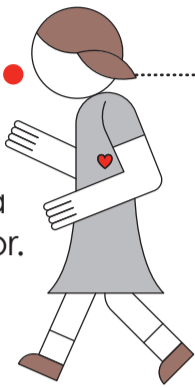


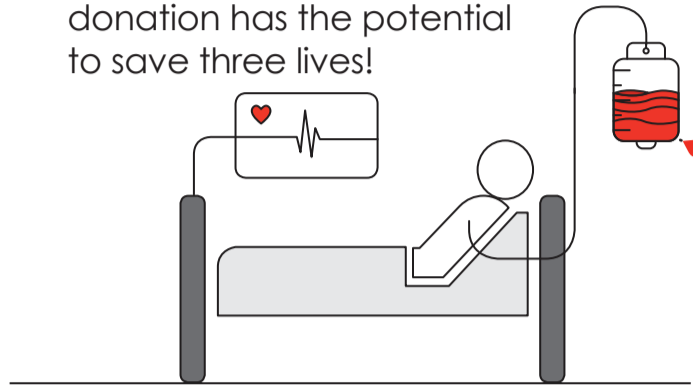
# Journey of blood



A unit of blood is drawn from a volunteer donor.



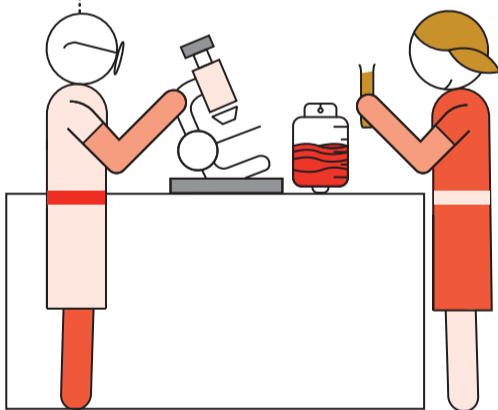
Blood is transfused to patients in need. Just one blood donation has the potential to save three lives!



Blood is collected into a sterile bag and labelled.



Units are transported to the nearest SANBS testing and processing lab.



In the processing laboratory, blood is spun down in a centrifuge and then separated into its different components.



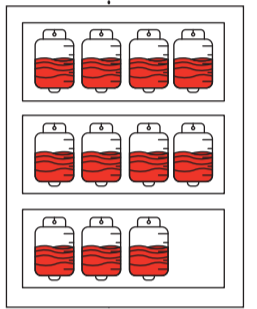
**Plasma**  
Contains proteins and clotting factors used to treat patients with massive bleeding or clotting factor deficiencies.



**Red Blood Cells**  
Contain haemoglobin, a protein that carries oxygen throughout the body. Used to treat patients with anaemia or blood loss due to trauma or surgery.



**Platelets**  
Crucial in helping blood to clot. Patients with low platelet levels often suffer from bruising and bleeding.

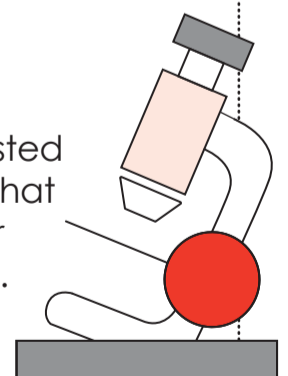


Blood products are stored prior to transfusion. The shelf life of blood is limited.

Platelets expire in 5 days.  
Red blood cells expire in 42 days.  
Plasma has a 1 year shelf life from the day of collection.



Local hospitals place orders with SANBS for blood products based on their needs.



Blood is tested to ensure that it is safe for transfusion.



**Trusted to saves lives.**