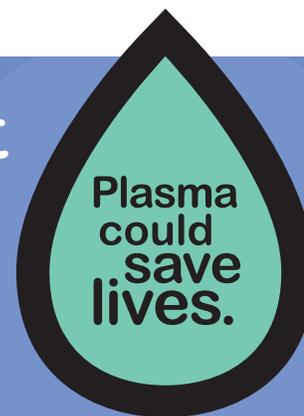


Why COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Donations Remain a Tool in the Fight Against COVID-19



1

The Food and Drug Administration's COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) remains in place and aligns with multiple peer-reviewed studies showing that treating hospitalized patients early in the course of illness with high-titer plasma can reduce their risk of serious illness and death. The EUA also states that CCP may be particularly helpful for immunocompromised patients. Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) and observational studies have shown mixed results about the use of CCP in the outpatient, emergency room, and inpatient environments. More U.S. studies will report out in spring 2021.

2

Plasma may be an effective weapon against variants. As COVID-19 patients survive the variants in their area, locally-sourced, recently-collected plasma may have neutralizing antibodies that can help others with those variants survive the illness. Research continues on the impact of variants on the effectiveness of monoclonal antibodies, CCP, and vaccines.

3

Healthcare providers continue to use CCP as the only FDA-authorized in-hospital early intervention treatment for COVID-19. A recent survey performed by the American Association of Blood Banks showed that 38% of hospitals plan to continue to use CCP in accordance with EUA guidelines. As of 3/19/2021, more than 650,000 units of plasma have been collected in the U.S. since the beginning of the pandemic.

4

The need for high-titer plasma makes it more vital than ever for people to respond to the call for donations. Plasma donations are needed to maintain the supply of antibody rich, high-titer plasma authorized for use. Given that severity of illness is not a predictor of titer levels, the more people who donate, the more high-titer plasma can be identified and used as treatment for sick patients.

5

Plasma donors may help support critical whole blood needs and research. Many blood centers are using whole blood donation as a method of collecting CCP. How does it work? Blood donations are sent to a lab to undergo routine screening and infectious disease testing. If COVID-19 antibodies are detected in the blood, the plasma from the donation may be processed into CCP. Donors who test positive for antibodies may also be contacted to participate in life-saving research studies.



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