



ADVISORY

DONATION OF COVID-19 CONVALESCENT PLASMA.

Date: 1st of July, 2020.

Target Audience:

- Recovered COVID-19 patients;
- General public;
- Investigators of approved clinical trials of COVID-19 convalescent plasma; and
- Approved hospitals/ clinical trial sites of COVID-19 convalescent plasma.

“If you have fully recovered from COVID-19, you may be able to help patients currently fighting the infection by donating your plasma. Because you fought the infection, your plasma now contains COVID-19 antibodies. These antibodies provided one way for your immune system to fight the virus when you were sick, so your plasma may be able to be used to help others in their fight against COVID-19 disease.”

What is Convalescent Plasma?

Convalescent plasma is the liquid part of blood that is collected from patients who have recovered from the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 patients develop antibodies in the blood against the virus. Antibodies are proteins that might help fight the infection. Convalescent plasma is being investigated for the treatment of COVID-19 because there is no approved treatment for this disease and there is some information that suggests it might help some patients recover from COVID-19.

Eligibility of COVID-19 Recovered Patient for Donation of Plasma:

“Donate Blood and Plasma to Make a Difference”

People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 for at least four weeks are encouraged to consider donating plasma, which may help save the lives of other patients. COVID-19 convalescent plasma must only be collected from recovered individuals if they are eligible to donate blood. Individuals must have had a prior diagnosis of COVID-19 documented by a laboratory test and meet other donor criteria. Individuals must have complete resolution of symptoms for at least four weeks prior to donation. A negative lab test for active COVID-19 disease is not necessary to qualify for donation.

How to Donate Convalescent Plasma?

Clinical Study Committee (CSC) of Division of Pharmacy Services, Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has already approved the clinical trials for experimental use of COVID-19 convalescent plasma. COVID-19 recovered patients may visit the following trial sites/ hospitals for donation of their convalescent plasma:

- i. National Institute of Blood Disease and Bone Marrow Transplantation (NIBD), Karachi.
- ii. Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences, Jamshoro.
- iii. University of Health Sciences, Lahore.
- iv. Pathology Department of Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC), Peshawar.
- v. Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi;
- vi. Benazir Bhutto Hospital, Rawalpindi;
- vii. Section of Hematology and Transfusion Medicines, Department of Pathology, Agha Khan University Hospital, Karachi.





Donation of Blood in the Era of COVID-19.

Similarly, general public can consider donating the blood. One blood donation can save up to three lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented challenges to the Pakistan's blood supply. Donor centres have experienced a dramatic reduction in donations due to the implementation of social distancing and the cancellation of blood drives. Blood is needed every day to provide life-saving treatments to a variety of patients such as cancer and thalassemia. General public and healthy individuals can help to ensure that blood continues to be available for patients by finding a blood donor centre near them. Blood can be donated to the following institutions:

- i. Pakistan Red Crescent Society;
- ii. Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre;
- iii. Thalassemia Centres and Blood Banks; and
- iv. Other blood donation societies/centres in your city/region/ province.

For more information about the blood donation centres/societies in your region, please visit the website of Safe Blood Transfusion Programme <https://www.sbtp.gov.pk/>

Reference:

1. FDA Guidance on Donation of COVID-19 Plasma.
<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/donate-covid-19-plasma>

