



Be the Match Blood and Bone Marrow Registry FAQs

By the numbers:

- 10,000 people need a bone marrow transplant each year
- 6,000 people search the Registry each day for a compatible donor
- 7 million people are on the Registry
- 1.8 million of those on the Registry are people of color (about 25%)
- 90% of patients will find a match within their same racial or ethnic background
- 70% will not match someone in their family and rely on an unrelated donor to save their life
- 3 out of 10 people will find their life-saving match only

Reality:

- If more people join the Registry, more patients will find donors.
- People of color are less likely than Caucasians to find compatible donor because there are fewer of them on the Registry.
- Bone Marrow, blood cell, and cord blood transplants are almost always a last resort for patients.
- Most donations (about 75%) are done using apheresis, non-surgical procedure that extracts blood-forming cells from the bloodstream
- Most donors describe the process as causing "soreness" and "discomfort" but not pain (PSBC lasts 24-48 hours, Marrow lasts 1-7 days)
- Donation is always voluntary
- Donors will not be asked to pay for the donation procedure
- Marrow replaces itself in four to six weeks
- You may be able to receive updates about your recipient
- Once on the Registry, you should notify us if your contact information or health changes

History:

- The NMDP has facilitated more than 30,000 transplants since 1987 and currently facilitates 300 transplants each month
- The Puget Sound Blood Center has registered more than 60,000 potential donors from Western Washington and Alaska

Did you know?

- You don't have to speak English to register for bone marrow as we have applications and materials in Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese
- You can sign up even if you have a cold, are less than 110 pounds, travelled outside of the country, or have a tattoo
- Over 70 diseases can be cured by a bone marrow transplant
- Over 40% of transplants will involve an international donor or recipient
- Even if you can't donate you can still help by hosting a bone marrow registration drive, volunteering, or fundraising
- When asked about their discomfort during the donation process, over 90% of donors are quick to point out that it was worth it to save a life and they would do it again