



## Our Hospital Partners

### **Eastern Niagara Hospital**

#### **Kaleida Health**

Buffalo General Hospital  
DeGraff Memorial Hospital  
Millard Fillmore Gates Circle Hospital  
Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital  
Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo

### **Mount St. Mary's Hospital**

### **Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center**

### **Roswell Park Cancer Institute**

### **Wyoming County Community Health System**

Platelet Pheresis donation will begin on June 15, 2009  
at DeGraff Memorial Hospital.

#### **Available hours to schedule an appointment for Platelet Pheresis donation:**

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30AM–3:30PM  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 7:00AM–12:00PM

You've Been Given the Gift of Life.  
**Give it Back.**



UPSTATE NEW YORK  
TRANSPLANT SERVICES

#### **Upstate New York Transplant Services Community Blood Service**

110 Broadway  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716.853.6667

[www.unyts.org](http://www.unyts.org)



UPSTATE NEW YORK  
TRANSPLANT SERVICES

# Platelet Pheresis

■ BECOMING A PLATELET DONOR

### What is Platelet Pheresis?

Blood is drawn from a donor and separated into its components, some of which are retained, the remainder of which are returned to the donor.

### Life-Saving Platelets

Your blood may be more special than you think. Upstate New York Transplant Services (UNYTS) Community Blood Service is asking you to consider becoming a platelet pheresis donor to help local patients in need in our community. Platelets are essential for normal blood clotting and are used in the treatment of serious illness, including cancer, leukemia and aplastic anemia, as well as heart and transplant surgery patients.

The blood is taken from one arm through a needle into a machine that contains a sterile, disposable plastic kit specifically designed for this purpose. Platelets and plasma are taken out of the whole blood, and red cells and sterile fluid are returned to the donor.

### Your First Donation

During your donation you can relax while watching a movie, listening to music, or visiting with our dedicated and friendly staff. Platelet donation is easy, and only takes 30–45 minutes longer than a whole blood donation.

### Is Platelet Donation Safe?

Donor safety is the utmost priority at Upstate New York Transplant Services. A new and sterile donation kit (collection bag, tubing, and needle) is used for every donor. The donor is never at risk of being exposed to another donor's blood, and the donor's blood never comes in contact with the sterile machine.

### Become a Regular Platelet Donor

After donation your body will replace the lost platelets within 24–48 hours. At Upstate New York Transplant Services platelets can be donated every 14 days. Donors who give whole blood may donate platelets 56 days after a whole blood donation.

### Why are Platelets Needed?

- Platelets aid in the clotting process to prevent or stop

bleeding, and are used in the treatment of serious illness or surgery.

- Patients in a high-dose chemotherapy treatment often need 8 units of platelets every three days.
- Leukemia patients may require 10–12 units of platelets weekly.
- Bone marrow transplant patients can use as many as 120 units of platelets.
- Platelets must be transfused within five days.
- Up to 40% of platelets donated are transfused to children.
- Platelets are often in very short supply due to their high demand and short shelf life.

### Who Can Be a Platelet Donor?

To qualify as a platelet donor, you must:

- weigh at least 110 pounds,
- be at least 17 years of age,
- be in good general health,
- have suitable veins, to be determined by UNYTS staff, and
- not take products containing aspirin for three days before your donation.

### Upstate New York Transplant Services Community Blood Service

Upstate New York Transplant Services Community Blood Service is empowering Western New Yorkers to take control of their own blood supply, and the organization is committed to spreading the merits of the life-saving qualities of blood donation. Just as the Gift of Life can take the form of a life-saving organ, it can also take the form of a critical blood transfusion, and Upstate New York Transplant Services is the organization offering Western New Yorkers the opportunity to save and enhance the lives of neighbors—whether through organ, eye, tissue or community blood donation.

### How Can I Become a Platelet Donor?

Contact our Special Types Recruiter at **716.512.7967** or **mspoljaric@unyts.org**, visit our website at **www.unyts.org**, or fill out the attached card, drop it in the mail, and we'll contact you.

On behalf of the hundreds of Western New Yorkers in our community who are dependent on blood products to survive, thank you for giving the Gift of Life!



## Become a Platelet Donor

- Yes, I want to save a life by donating platelets to Upstate New York Transplant Services

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

(      )

PHONE

E-MAIL

### Preferred Method of Contact

- Phone  
 E-Mail

Return to **Upstate New York Transplant Services**  
Community Blood Service  
110 Broadway, Buffalo, NY 14203

### Questions?

For questions or to make an appointment to donate platelets, please don't hesitate to contact our Special Types Recruiter at 716.512.7967 or [mspoljaric@unyts.org](mailto:mspoljaric@unyts.org).