



THE BASICS

What Is Bone Marrow Donation?

A one-page primer for volunteers and participants.

Every year, thousands of people with blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma need a bone marrow or blood stem cell transplant to survive. For most, the only cure is a transplant from a matched donor - and most patients do not have a match in their own family. That is where the registry comes in: a global list of volunteers ready to donate if they are ever matched.

How joining works

1. Sign up with your national registry (in the U.S., NMDP). Joining takes about five minutes online.
2. You complete a simple cheek-swab kit that is mailed to your home, or swabbed at an event.
3. Your tissue type goes on the registry. You are only contacted if you match a patient.
4. If you match, the registry guides you through every step - it is always your choice to proceed.

The two ways people donate

- PBSC (peripheral blood stem cell) - about 8 in 10 donations. Non-surgical, similar to giving blood; stem cells are collected from the bloodstream.
- Marrow donation - about 2 in 10 donations. An outpatient surgical procedure done under anesthesia; marrow is collected from the back of the pelvic bone (never the spine).

Good to know

Joining the registry is free for the donor, and the registry - not the donor - covers a matched donor's medical costs. The Jada Bascom Foundation connects you to the right registry; we do not run the registry or perform the donation.

Who can join?

Eligibility varies by country. In the U.S., NMDP generally registers healthy people ages 18-40. Have a specific question about a condition or medication? Visit jadabascomfoundation.org/can-i-donate and let the registry make the final call.