

Every three minutes, someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer like leukemia or a disease like sickle cell. It can happen to anyone, at any time.

**But so can a cure—a marrow or cord blood transplant.**



### **What does a patient need for a match?**

Patients need a matching tissue type. This is completely different from a blood type match. We inherit our tissue types from our parents and they are based on our ancestry.

About 25% of the time, a patient will have a matching family member. 75% of patients, who have several full brothers and sisters have NO MATCH in their immediate family. Patients rely on Be The Match and people who join the registry, and are willing to donate their life-saving marrow or stem cells.

About 8% of members who complete additional testing will go on to donate. If a member is asked to donate, that means they are the closest HLA match to the patient – the best donor.

### **Why can you only join at the live event up to the age of 44?**

At Be The Match, we are committed to providing the best possible outcomes for patients. At donor registry drives, we focus on recruiting new registry members ages 18 to 44. This is based on medical research that shows younger donors are best for patients and provide the greatest chance for transplant success. Because of this, doctors request donors in the 18 to 44 age group more than 95% of the time

## Myths vs Facts

We all see TV shows like Greys Anatomy or HOUSE. Often, these dramas show someone donating marrow and it depicts it as painful. Let's get the facts.....

**Fact** – About 80% of donations are done by taking blood from the donors arm and filtering it for the life-saving stem cells. Prior to the collection, the donor is given several injections of medication that encourage extra production of those cells. The donor can binge watch their favorite TV shows, play on their computer, read or visit with friends or family during the procedure.

**Fact** – A smaller percent of the time, the doctor will request a traditional marrow collection. In this procedure the donor is under anesthesia (not awake). A needle is inserted into the back of the hipbone (not the spine) and a small amount of marrow is extracted. This is usually an outpatient procedure and the donor will have some butterfly bandages on their hip.

Your cells replenish themselves in 4 to 6 weeks.

Because only 1 to 5% or less of your marrow is needed to save the patient's life, your immune system stays strong.

We will request about 20 hours of your time to help Save A Life – this timeframe is spread over several weeks and includes time for labwork, a complete physical and the actual day of donation. We work around the donors schedule.

*Donor's never pay anything to donate.*

***Be The Match Registry Event: Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
White Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Hours: 9:30am to 12:30pm***

To learn more, go to: [www.bethematch.org](http://www.bethematch.org)

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