

BE  THE MATCH<sup>®</sup>

**You** could save a life  
THE TIME IS NOW



Justin, PBSC donor

# YOU'RE A MATCH!

When you joined the Be The Match Registry®, you joined knowing that one day you might be a match for a patient in need of a life-saving marrow transplant. **That time is now.**

## CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

A patient's doctor recently searched the registry and identified **you** as a potential match for their patient. We need to speak with you to understand your interest in moving forward with **additional testing**. Call your donor contact representative as soon as possible (use the contact information found on the letter you received). We will provide you with information about next steps, scheduling and donation to help you with your decision.

We support any decision you make. If you decide not to move forward with additional testing, we need to know as soon as possible so we can continue the search for another donor. Delays in the search may be life-threatening for the patient.

## YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED FOR ADDITIONAL TESTING.

### What we need you to do now:

- Contact us as soon as possible
- Respond with your willingness to move forward
- Sign a consent form
- Complete a health history questionnaire
- Confirm your contact information
- Provide a blood or cheek swab sample, if necessary



Ron (left), donated  
to Marla (right)

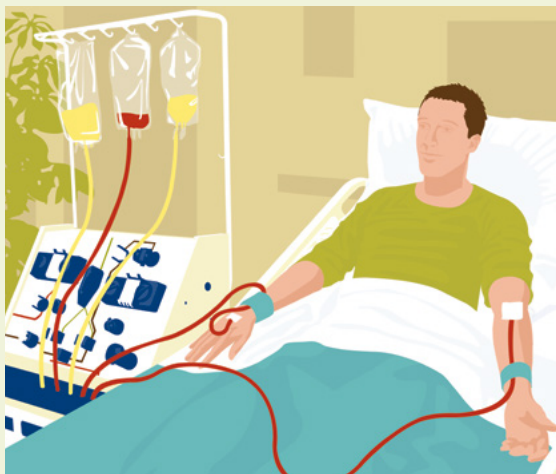
## THE PROCESS

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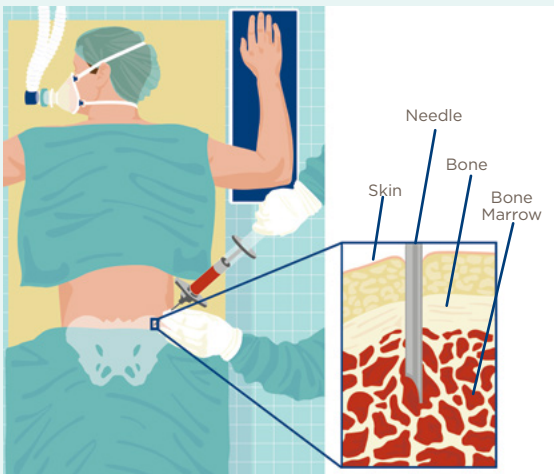
- 1** A patient's doctor searches the Be The Match Registry and identifies you as a potential match.
- 2** More testing is needed to see if you're a good match for the patient. We contact you for additional testing. **You're at this step—you're on a patient's list.**
- 3** The patient's doctor conducts additional testing to confirm that you're a good match. You wait up to 60 days while the patient's doctor reviews the test results and makes a decision about moving forward with transplant.

## **TYPES OF DONATION:** PBSC & MARROW

If you're identified as the best match, you may be asked to donate. There are two types of donation: peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC) and marrow. The patient's doctor chooses the donation method that is best for the patient.



**PBSC DONATION** is a nonsurgical procedure—called apheresis—that takes place at a blood center or outpatient hospital facility. For five days leading up to donation, you will be given injections of a drug called filgrastim to increase the number of blood-forming cells (also called blood stem cells) in your bloodstream. Your blood is then removed through a needle in one arm and passed through a machine that will collect only the blood-forming cells. The remaining blood is returned to you through your other arm.



**MARROW DONATION** is an outpatient surgical procedure that takes place in a hospital operating room. While you receive anesthesia, doctors use special, hollow needles to withdraw liquid marrow from both sides of the back of your pelvic bone.

**Recovery times vary** depending on the individual and the type of donation. Most donors are able to return to work, school, and other activities within one to seven days after donation.



Ava, transplant recipient (left), with Michelle, her donor



*Thank you for giving us back the future we have always hoped, dreamed and planned for.”*

— Ava’s mother, Janet, in a letter to Ava’s donor, Michelle

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q:** What is a match?

**A:** Doctors look for a donor who matches their patient's human leukocyte antigen (HLA) tissue type. HLA are proteins—or markers—found on most cells in your body.

**Q:** Does it cost me anything to donate?

**A:** All donation-related costs—such as medical appointments and travel expenses—are covered. The only cost to the donor may be time taken off from work.

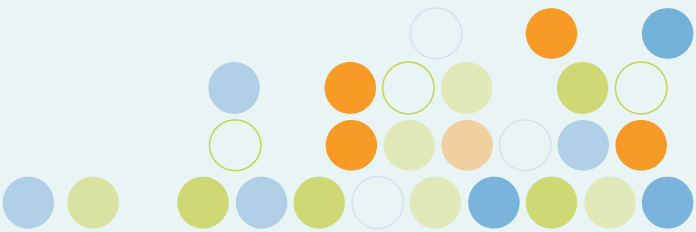
**Q:** Does donating hurt?

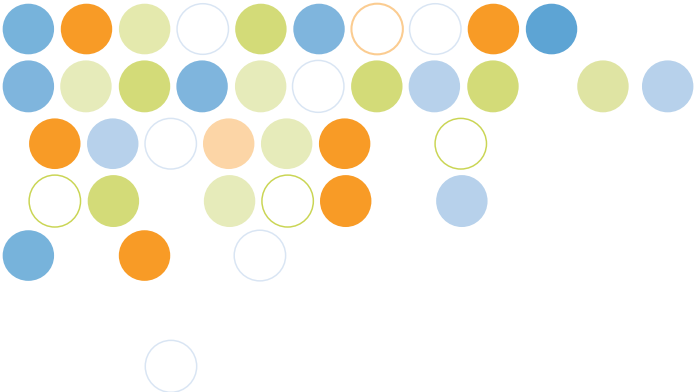
**A:** Every donor's experience is different. Some donors said the experience was more painful than they expected, others, less painful. Some reported having no pain at all.



### WANT MORE?

- [BeTheMatch.org/DonationQA](https://www.bethematch.org/DonationQA)  
to view more Q & A about donation
- [BeTheMatch.org/DonorVideos](https://www.bethematch.org/DonorVideos)  
to watch donors talk about their donation experiences
- [BeTheMatch.org/InTheKnow](https://www.bethematch.org/InTheKnow)  
to learn more about additional testing and donation
- [BeTheMatch.org/DonorToolkit](https://www.bethematch.org/DonorToolkit)  
for tips to use when discussing your donation decision with others





## ABOUT US

Be The Match® is operated by the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP), a nonprofit organization that matches patients with donors, educates health care professionals and conducts research so more lives can be saved. To learn more about the cure, visit [BeTheMatch.org](http://BeTheMatch.org) or call 1 (800) MARROW-2.



[BeTheMatch.org](http://BeTheMatch.org)

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501; JUN 2015