

World Blood Donor Day

Every year on **June 14**, almost all UN member states (more than 190 countries worldwide) celebrate **World Blood Donor Day**. This date was chosen for a reason. It was the birthday of the Austrian physician and immunologist Karl Landsteiner , who discovered human blood groups. For this discovery, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1930.

This holiday was first celebrated on June 14, 2004, and in 2005, at the 58th session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, it was approved and given a permanent date.

Blood donation is a system of activities aimed at organizing, providing, and implementing the procurement of blood and its components. It is a complex phenomenon that encompasses not only engineering, technological, and biomedical issues, but also legal, social, medical, social, socio-psychological, and socio-economic aspects.

Today, despite all the colossal advances in medicine and accumulated scientific knowledge, donor blood and its components still remain virtually irreplaceable healthcare resources.

Blood and blood component transfusions are an essential part of emergency medical care. They are necessary for significant blood loss resulting from serious injuries in various accidents, complex surgeries, and childbirth. Transfusions are also required for patients with various chronic diseases associated with persistent blood loss, such as sickle cell anemia and hemophilia.

Recently, the donation of blood and its components has become a fundamental factor in the development of high-tech medical care. Many clinical treatment protocols in oncology, oncohematology , transplantology, and immunology, based on aggressive interventions in the body's biological processes, in the vast majority of cases involve stopping or suppressing hematopoiesis. In all these situations, exclusively donor blood components are used as replacement therapy.

The slogan for the World Blood Donor Day 2026 campaign is: " One Drop of Humanity – Give Blood, Save a Life . " The goals of this campaign are to ensure sustainable growth in the number of regular, voluntary, and unpaid blood donations worldwide and to raise awareness of the life-saving importance of donating blood and its components.

In our country, citizens of the Republic of Belarus, as well as foreign citizens and stateless persons, aged 18 to 65 years, permanently residing in the Republic of Belarus, possessing full legal capacity, and free from diseases,

conditions, and forms of risky behavior that make donation contraindicated, as well as medical contraindications, have the right to perform the donor function.

donate blood and its components in Minsk by contacting healthcare institutions that collect donor blood : the State Institution “Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Transfusiology and Medical Biotechnology”, the City Center of Transfusiology (hereinafter referred to as CCT) of the Health Institution “6th City Clinical Hospital” , the CCT of the State Institution “ Minsk Scientific and Practical Center for Surgery, Transplantology and Hematology” , the CCT of the Health Institution “City Clinical Hospital of Emergency Medical Care” , and the Health Institution “Minsk Regional Blood Transfusion Station”.

The staff of the City Clinical Pathological Anatomy Bureau also addresses the issue of ensuring adequate and reliable reserves of blood and its components, and regularly donates blood, including on a voluntary basis.

Participation in the blood donor movement is an example of kindness and humanism. Becoming a donor is an opportunity to save a life!

The material was prepared by the physician-methodologist of the pathological anatomical department of organizational and consultative work, O.V. Ignatova.