

4- What are the benefits of having paid plasma clinics?

The national blood organizations in Canada collect blood to supply fresh blood products including fresh frozen plasma to hospitals. The excess plasma from their activity is sent for production of plasma

We hope this message and the correct information gets to our fellow Canadians and they recognize the need for a Canadian plasma industry.

We have found that the concerns fall into one of the five categories below.

a) Safety:

Donors paid or unpaid, undergo the same stringent donor screening check as per Health Canada regulations. Every donor undergoes thorough health examination, comprehensive questionnaire completion and transmissible disease marker testing on each and every visit.

Based on industry wide standards (IQPP) only plasma from qualified donors will be released for manufacturing. *Donors are considered qualified only after two consecutive test results demonstrate absence of transmissible disease markers within 16 weeks.* Our qualified donors will be donating a minimum of seven times every year. Statistically there is a smaller chance of transmitting disease through repeat donors versus first time donors.

measured every time and monitored by the physician. A donor will be removed from the program if their protein level is outside specified healthy limits.

The absolute focus of the health care system should be the patient. Depriving Canadian patients or for that matter any patient the therapies they require for ideological or political reasons is unethical.

We give our donors an option to gift their compensation to a charitable organization and obtain a tax receipt.

Currently we are relying heavily

6- It has been reported that one of your clinics is located near a homeless shelter and as a result may attract high risk donors? What is your response to that statement?

Site selection was made based on several factors including but not limited to the following:.

- a) Presence of a healthy population that would be open to spend up to 2 hours per week for plasma donation.
- b) Accessibility and ease of transportation for both donors and staff for their convenience.
- c) Proximity to hospitals and EMS for donor safety.
- d) Cost and affordability of the premises.
- e) Ability to meet regulatory compliance for the premises.
- f) Safe Biohazard waste removal capability.
- g) Infrastructure that includes power, water and communication facilities
- h) Availability of skilled and qualified staff

Both centers are in close proximity to subway stations, major hospitals and areas where healthy potential donors live, work or study. The Spadina location is minutes away from the hospital alley (Toronto General Hospital, Mt. Sinai and Princess Margaret Hospital), across the University of Toronto (St. Geroge Campus) and a few minutes walk from OCAD.

Given the spread of homeless shelters around the downtown core it is no surprise that some fall in very close proximity to our centers. The donor screening and selection is not a random process. It has many layers of safeguards in place and is designed to screen the high risk population out of the qualified donor pool. Only qualified repeat donors, people who have been screened and tested negative for all transmissible disease markers on two separate occasions within a sixteen week period, will be compensated for their time. This practice discourages the high risk populations from attempting to donate knowing that they will not qualify. Proximity of our centres to the homeless shelters might increase the number of high risk donor applicants but unqualified individuals will not make it past our rigorous donor selection and qualification processes mandated by Health Canada.

7- Is plasma collected from paid donors as safe as plasma collected from volunteers? Why?

Yes. I would first correct you and emphasize that plasma donors are all volunteers however they are compensated for their time. I would rephrase the question: Is plasma collected from paid volunteer donors as safe as plasma collected from unpaid volunteers? Why?

Numerous scientific studies show plasma derived products made from paid donors are as safe as those from unpaid donors. Additionally, the plasma industry has developed risk mitigation strategies which are not applicable to fresh blood products. As a result plasma protein products from paid plasma donors have proven safer than fresh blood components from non paid donors, mainly due to the viral inactivation and filtration steps applied to plasma products.

All plasma collection centres whether remunerating donors or not undergo the same review

