



# TRALI Explained

As our partner in providing for patient needs, Miller-Keystone Blood Center wants you to know that there are new guidelines that have been put into place to protect patients from a rare transfusion complication known as TRALI (transfusion related acute lung injury). While these new guidelines will affect the type of blood donation some donors can make, please know ***all donors are still wanted and needed.***

## What is TRALI?

Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury, can cause breathing symptoms ranging from mild to life-threatening.

## How common are TRALI incidents?

- They are rare.

## What are some of the causes of TRALI?

- TRALI is still being researched, but it is thought to be a reaction to antibodies found in blood.

## What is the source of the TRALI producing antibodies?

- A person can develop antibodies as the normal result of being exposed to another person's blood cells. The exposure can occur for a variety of reasons including: pregnancy; blood transfusion; organ transplant or tissue transplant. These antibodies are more commonly found in females.

## What does it mean if I have these antibodies?

- The antibodies will cause you no harm; it just means you cannot donate platelets or plasma, as that is where the antibodies reside. As a committed blood donor you can still donate whole blood or automated red cells.

## As a blood donor am I at risk?

- Donating blood does not put you at risk for TRALI.

## What is Miller-Keystone Blood Center doing to prevent TRALI at our local hospitals?

- MKBC is taking a proactive approach and is now screening all donors for suspected TRALI antibodies. Donors who have had any type of pregnancy, had a blood transfusion or a tissue transplant will be tested beginning early 2009. You will be notified should you test positive for the antibodies.

For more information please visit [www.GIVEaPINT.org](http://www.GIVEaPINT.org), or call Diane Wiest, RN at 484-225-8351



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