

Word List

Allogeneic transplant

A type of transplant where a patient receives healthy blood-forming cells from a donor.

Apheresis

A process to collect blood-forming cells from the bloodstream.

Autologous transplant

A type of transplant where a patient's own blood-forming cells are collected, stored, and given back after chemotherapy, and sometimes radiation.

Blood-forming cells

Cells that grow into red blood cells, white blood cells, or platelets. Also called blood stem cells.

Blood or marrow transplant (BMT)

A process to replace unhealthy bone marrow with healthy bone marrow. Also called bone marrow transplant or stem cell transplant.

Bone marrow

The soft, spongy tissue inside of bones.

Cell sources

The 3 places where blood-forming cells are found:

- Bone marrow
- Peripheral blood (circulating blood or bloodstream)
- Umbilical cord blood

Central venous catheter

A long, thin tube that is put into a large vein in the chest or neck. It is used to give medicines, fluids, and blood. Also called a central line.

Chemotherapy

Medicines that destroy cancer cells or stop them from growing. Also called chemo.

Clinical trial

A way to gather information about how well a particular treatment for a disease works and what the side effects may be.

Cord blood

The blood collected from the umbilical cord and placenta after a baby is born.

Disease-free survival (DFS)

The number of patients who are alive at a certain time after treatment without any signs of the disease.

Donor

A person who volunteers to give blood-forming cells. A donor can be a family member or an unrelated donor.

Engraftment

When the donated blood-forming cells start to grow and make healthy blood cells in your blood.

Formal search

A detailed search of the NMDPSM. This search shows whether a potential donor or cord blood unit is truly the best match for you.

Graft failure

When the donated cells do not make the white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets you need.

Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD)

A common side effect of an allogeneic transplant. GVHD happens because your new cells from your donor (graft) might see your body's cells (host) as different and attack them.

Haploidentical transplant

A type of transplant where your donor matches exactly half of your HLA markers. Also called a half-matched transplant. Biological parents and their children are always a half-match.

Harvest

A way to collect blood-forming cells from the bone marrow before transplant.

HLA (Human Leukocyte Antigen)

A protein, or marker, found on most cells in your body. There are certain HLA markers your doctor looks at for transplant. You get half of your HLA from your mother and half from your father.

Immune system

The parts of your body (blood cells and organs) that fight infections.

Informed consent

When you have been given information including the possible risks and benefits before agreeing to a treatment or clinical trial.

Peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC)

Blood-forming cells from the bloodstream.

Platelets

Parts of the blood that help the blood clot.

Preliminary search

A free search of the NMDPSM Registry. This search shows the potential donors and cord blood units that could match your HLA markers.

Preparative regimen

The process of preparing your body to receive the new blood-forming cells. Also called a conditioning regimen.

Red blood cells

Blood cells that carry oxygen throughout the body.

Reduced-intensity transplant

Preparative regimen that uses lower doses of chemotherapy with or without radiation.

White blood cells

Blood cells that fight infections.

Resources for you

Talk to someone who can help:

- Contact a BMT Patient Navigator:
 - Call: 1 (888) 999-6743
 - Email: patientinfo@nmdp.org
 - Visit: [NMDP.org/one-on-one](https://www.nmdp.org/one-on-one)

Order free resources at [nmdp.org/request](https://www.nmdp.org/request). Here are some resources you might find helpful:

- BOOKLET: Transplant Basics
- VIDEO: Basics of BMT



At every step, we're here to help

NMDPSM has a team dedicated to providing information and support to you before, during, and after transplant. You can contact our Patient Support Center to ask questions you may have about transplant, request professional or peer support, or receive free patient education materials.

Call: 1 (888) 999-6743 | Email: patientinfo@nmdp.org | Web: [nmdp.org/one-on-one](https://www.nmdp.org/one-on-one)



Every individual's medical situation, transplant experience, and recovery is unique. You should always consult with your own transplant team or family doctor regarding your situation. This information is not intended to replace, and should not replace, a doctor's medical judgment or advice.