



Rare Blood Program

Information intended for persons with a rare blood and their family



**Héma
Québec**

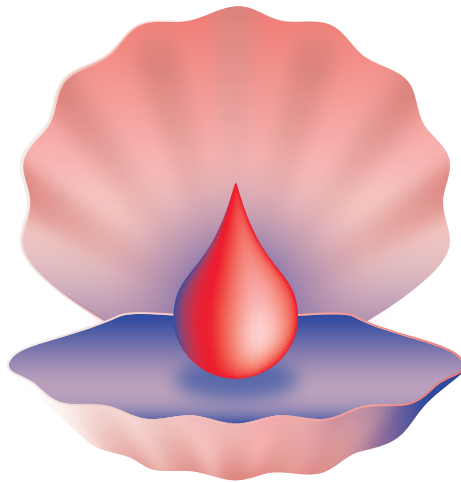
BLOOD and PLASMA
MOTHER'S MILK
STEM CELLS
HUMAN TISSUES

What exactly does it mean to have rare blood?

To start, rare blood is not a disease.

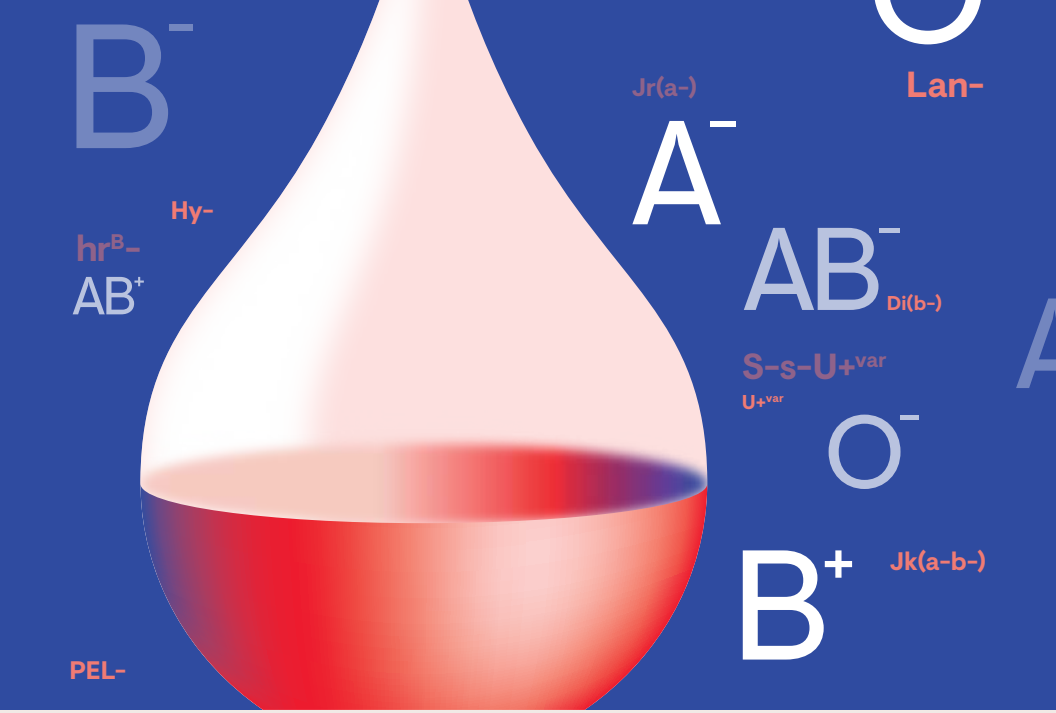
Instead, rare blood is an exceptional condition. One in a thousand people (1/1000) worldwide has a rare blood type, which makes it... one could say, a rare pearl. Rare blood is inherited.

You inherit your blood type, just like your eye colour and hair colour.



Did you know?

Héma-Québec is the organization responsible of efficiently meeting the needs of the Québec population for quality blood and other biological products of human origin.



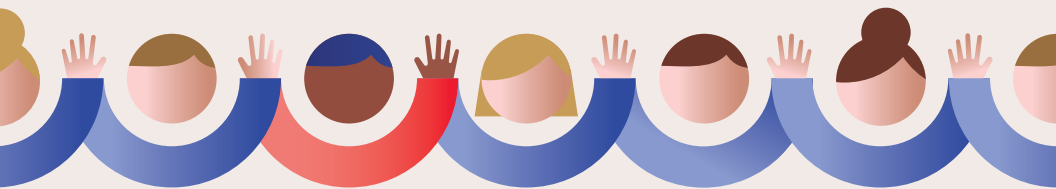
Blood types, explained

At first glance, a drop of blood from one person looks no different than that of the next person. But in reality, red blood cells differ from one individual to another. Red blood cells have substances called antigens on their surface, which we inherit from our parents. The type of antigen present determines your blood group.

Perhaps you are familiar with the common blood groups: A, B, O and AB, as well as the Rh positive and negative factors.

But did you know that in addition to these types, there's around 362 known antigens, and that some combinations are rarer than others?

Finding a compatible donor for a recipient with a rare blood type can sometimes be a major challenge.





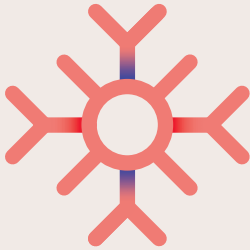
Patients with rare blood types and no health issues are asked to donate blood to grow Québec's bank of rare blood.

Where to find a match for your blood type?

Tracking down a rare blood type can feel like finding a needle in a haystack. It can even turn into a worldwide race against the clock!

When a patient with a rare blood type needs a blood transfusion, perhaps ahead of a surgery or childbirth or after an accident, Héma-Québec will look for a match among its rare blood donors.

Patients with rare blood types and no health issues are also asked to donate blood to grow Québec's bank of rare blood.



Good news!

Rare blood is frozen at -80°C and can be kept for 10 years.

Your family: a valuable ally!

In the case of rare blood, Héma-Québec calls on family members, more specifically brothers and sisters, to conduct a family study. Remember that blood type is inherited.

A family study consists of donating blood or collecting blood to determine if siblings have a rare blood type. If this proves to be the case, the siblings will be invited to return regularly to donate blood at the nearest Héma-Québec Donation Centre.

By taking part in a family study, you and your family can help increase Héma-Québec's reserve of rare blood to meet constantly growing transfusion needs.

No better time than now!

Héma-Québec has created the rare blood program to inform the community about what rare blood is and to promote the need to increase the collective supply.

A collective effort is needed to save lives! It is important that people with rare blood donate their blood regularly. This starts with you!

By returning the consent form, you authorize Héma-Québec to contact you to take part in its rare blood program.*

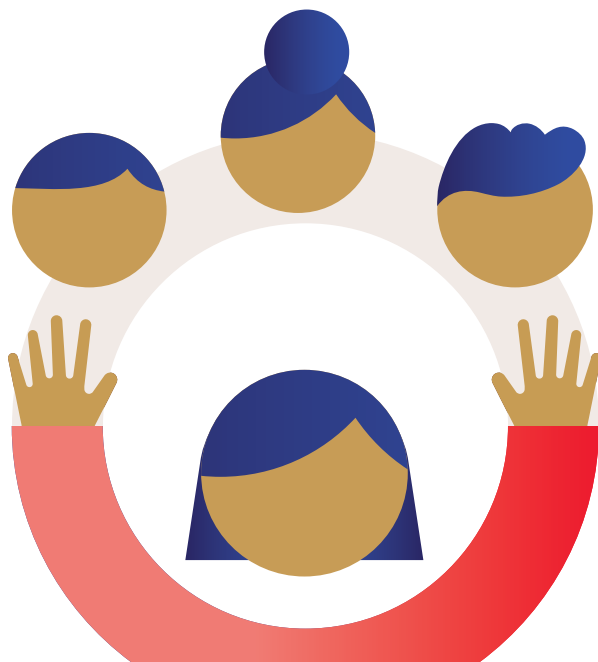
Héma-Québec provides rare blood program participants and their family members with step-by-step personalized guidance and support.

* If you are already a registered Héma-Québec blood donor, this step is not required. We will communicate directly with you.

Spread the word!

When you give blood, you give life.

Become a rare blood donor
and talk to your family
about it!





Cédric
RARE BLOOD DONOR



You have questions
or wish to participate in
the rare blood program?

Contact us!

1-800-847-2525, option 3 (toll-free) | rareblood@hema-quebec.qc.ca

