

R<sub>0</sub>

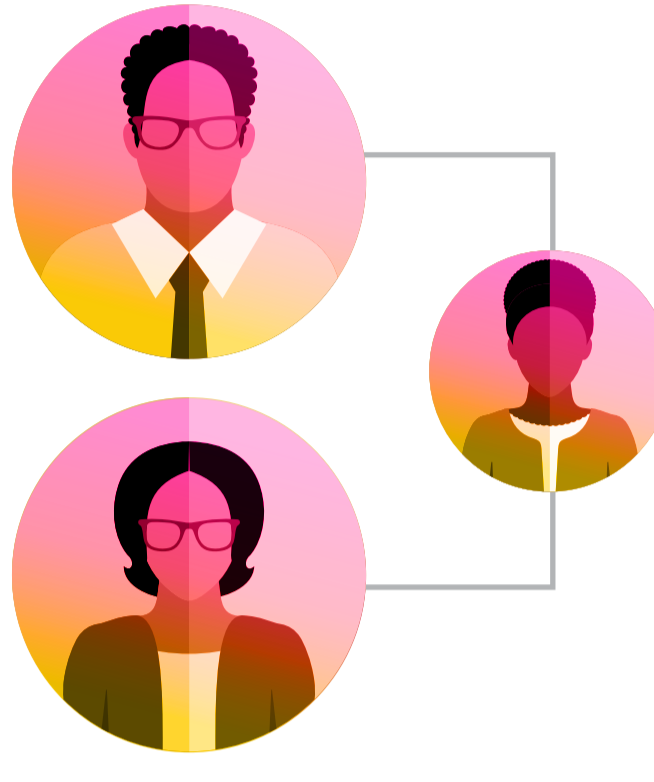
Your blood is rare and exceptional

# What is R<sub>0</sub> blood & who has it?

ONLY **5%** DONATE BLOOD

Of the entire U.S. population, only 5% donate blood – and only a special 4% of those donors have a blood type called R<sub>0</sub>.

OF THOSE DONORS **4%** HAVE R<sub>0</sub> BLOOD



Your blood type is inherited from your parents in the same way as eye or hair color. This means you are more likely to share the same blood type as someone from the same ethnic background.

There is a significant chance that others in your family also have this special R<sub>0</sub> type.

For blood transfusion the best known and most important blood group systems are the ABO group and the Rh group.

The ABO group determines whether you belong to blood group A, B, O or AB.

People with the R<sub>0</sub> blood type have the gene combination of Dce and will have either A+, B+, AB+ or O+ blood.

ABO Group	Rh Group
A	A+
B	B+
O	O+
AB	AB+

An R<sub>0</sub> donor is a special type of Rh positive donor



This blood type is normal, but **uncommon**

**44% of African Americans** have the R<sub>0</sub> blood type

**17% of Hispanic Americans** have the R<sub>0</sub> blood type

Since this type is more common in **AFRICAN AMERICANS**, patients with sickle cell disease are more likely to need this blood type for transfusions.

# Why is R<sub>0</sub> blood important and who needs it?

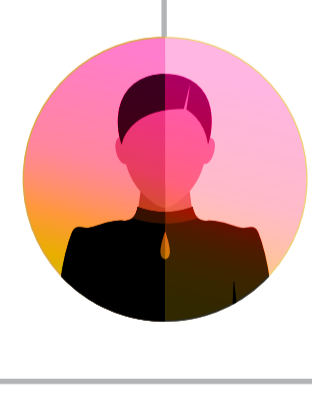
As an R<sub>0</sub> donor, you have the power to save the lives of patients in your community, **ESPECIALLY INDIVIDUALS BATTLING SICKLE CELL DISEASE** who require more extensively matched blood.

So, if one of these patients has the R<sub>0</sub> blood type, usually they need blood of an R<sub>0</sub> donor.



8-10 units are needed for an adult patient for one transfusion exchange – that's over 60 units of blood/year for therapy

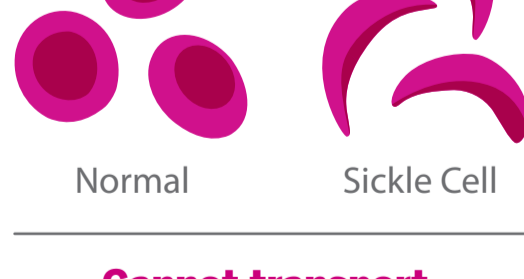
At least **20 R<sub>0</sub> donors** are needed to support that single patient



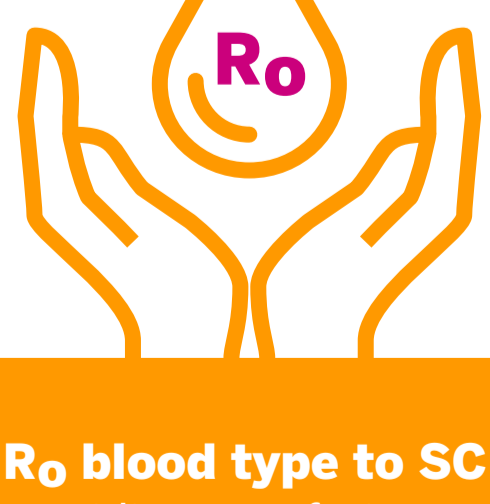
# What is sickle cell disease?

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is an inherited disorder of hemoglobin.

Individuals with sickle cell disease have abnormal, or 'sickle shaped', red blood cells. These cells cannot transport oxygen well, have a shorter lifespan and aren't replaced as quickly by the body as normal, healthy red blood cells. This can cause anemia.



- Cannot transport oxygen well
- Shorter lifespan
- Aren't replaced as quickly
- Can cause anemia



Providing R<sub>0</sub> blood type to SCD patients is the key to avoiding transfusion complications. It also enhances their quality of life and prevents strokes and hemolytic reactions. Poorly matched blood makes future transfusions more difficult.

To learn more about the R<sub>0</sub> Donor Program visit [versiti.org/R0donor](http://versiti.org/R0donor)

