

# Inpatient Apheresis: Benefits and the Value of Partnership



Apheresis is a procedure in which a small volume of blood is temporarily removed from a patient and separated into fluid (plasma) and solid (cells) components. This is done using either a centrifuge or a filter. The procedure can remove unwanted components of the blood, such as pathologic cells, unwanted antibodies, abnormal proteins or heavy metals. It can also replace healthy blood components, such as whole plasma, clotting factors or red blood cells, before the volume of blood is returned to the patient.

Types of apheresis include the following:

- **Plasma exchange:** Removes and replaces the fluid component of the blood. This can be useful for some neurologic and immunologic issues.
- **Cytapheresis:** Removes specific cells from the blood. This can be useful for blood- and cancer-related issues. In some cases, abnormal cells are replaced with healthy cells.
- **Photopheresis:** Separates plasma and exposes it to ultraviolet light and a special medication. This can be useful for graft-versus-host disease.
- **Lipid apheresis:** Removes low density lipoprotein, or “bad cholesterol.” This can be useful for patients with high cholesterol.

## Benefits of Outsourcing Apheresis

Apheresis patients often have multiple comorbidities. They can also experience complications with the apheresis, as with any medical procedure. While apheresis can be provided in both inpatient and outpatient settings (including outpatient portions of hospitals, such as infusion sites), because of potential complications, many patients may benefit from initiating the therapy in a hospital.

Providing apheresis can involve significant investments, including hiring additional staff, tracking adverse events and managing quality control. Hospitals often decide to outsource apheresis services in order to reduce capital expenditure and to eliminate the need to internally develop nursing expertise and treatment policies.

With proven outcomes, clinical expertise, cutting-edge staff training, and professional reporting capabilities, DaVita has partnered with many hospitals to deliver high-quality apheresis therapy.

For more information, email [hospitals@davita.com](mailto:hospitals@davita.com).

About DaVita Inc.

DaVita is a Fortune 500® health care provider focused on transforming care delivery to improve quality of life for patients around the globe. The company is the largest provider of kidney care services in the U.S. and has been a leader in clinical quality and innovation for 20 years. Through DaVita Kidney Care, the company treats patients with chronic kidney failure and end stage renal disease. DaVita is committed to bold, patient-centric care models, implementing the latest technologies and moving toward integrated care offerings for all. As of March 31, 2019, DaVita serves 203,000 patients at 2,664 outpatient dialysis centers in the United States. The company also operates 241 outpatient dialysis centers in nine countries across the world. DaVita has reduced hospitalizations, improved mortality, and worked collaboratively to propel the kidney care industry to adopt an equitable and high-quality standard of care for all patients, everywhere. To learn more about how DaVita is leading the health care evolution, please visit [DaVita.com/About](http://DaVita.com/About).

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## Why to Consider Offering Inpatient Apheresis

Offering apheresis can help you:

- Meet physician demand for increased therapeutic options
- Achieve evidence-based benefits in clinical outcomes<sup>1</sup>
- Promote high-quality patient care
- Build market share by providing therapeutic options for oncology, hematology, neurology and nephrology patients
- Possibly receive direct reimbursement for some indications

1. Frیدی JL, Kaplan AA. Therapeutic apheresis (plasma exchange or cytappheresis): Indications and technology. UpToDate. Jul 31, 2018.

  
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