

SAVING LIVES IS IN OUR BLOOD.



Donate a pint
at the TexMed
blood drive

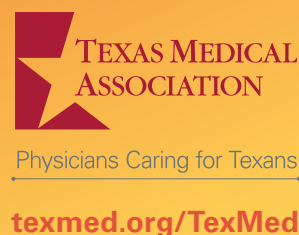
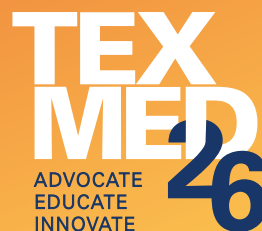
*To ensure eligibility, regular donors
should have made their last
donation at least 56 days before
the event – by Feb. 20, 2026.*

**FRIDAY,
APRIL 17**
10 AM-6 PM

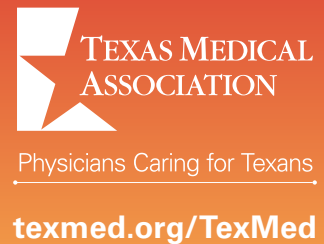
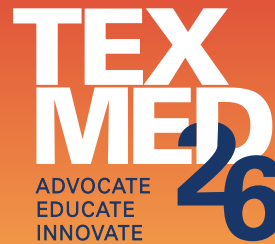
**SATURDAY,
APRIL 18**
10 AM-2 PM

AT THE BLOOD DONATION BUS IN THE TEXMED EXPO HALL

Coordinated and co-hosted by The Coastal Bend Blood Center, the Texas Medical Association's (TMA) Committee on Emergency Medical Services and Trauma (CEMST) and Subcommittee on Transfusion Medicine and Transplantation (STT), and the Nueces County Medical Society.



INAUGURAL TEXMED 2026 BLOOD DRIVE



Coordinated and co-hosted by The Coastal Bend Blood Center, the Texas Medical Association's (TMA) Committee on Emergency Medical Services and Trauma (CEMST) and Subcommittee on Transfusion Medicine and Transplantation (STT), and the Nueces County Medical Society

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 | SATURDAY, APRIL 18

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What are prehospital whole blood programs?

Prehospital blood programs equip EMS and medical teams with whole blood, allowing transfusion to begin at the scene or during transport. This approach closes the critical gap between injury and hospital care and improves survival for patients with life-threatening bleeding. Texas allocated \$10 million to build a statewide prehospital whole blood program after TMA physicians and other stakeholders requested funding for the Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Task Force, citing evidence that early whole blood transfusion improves outcomes, simplifies care, and reduces costs. These programs rely on partnerships among EMS agencies, hospitals, blood centers, and community donors to maintain safe, ready-to-use whole blood for emergencies. Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) help champion and sustain the system by promoting blood drives, expanding donor pools, and coordinating whole blood distribution across their regions.^{1,2}

How will blood donations be used?

Blood donated at TexMed 2026 may be used to support Texas' prehospital whole blood program. Donations lacking human leukocyte antigen (HLA) antibodies may be placed into the whole blood supply, ensuring EMS units and HALO-FLIGHT air ambulances carry whole blood to treat trauma, internal bleeding, postpartum hemorrhage, and other critical emergencies in the field.³

What is HLA Testing?

HLA antibodies can develop after sensitizing events like pregnancy, prior transfusions, or transplant surgeries. HLA testing helps identify donors who do not have these antibodies so their whole blood can be safely used in prehospital programs that require broadly compatible units for rapid EMS deployment. Donors who screen positive for HLA antibodies may still donate blood, but their units are not used for EMS whole blood programs.⁴

At the TexMed 2026 blood drive, optional **HLA testing will be offered at no cost** for those interested in participating in the program. Please notify blood donation staff at the time of donation if you would like to be tested.

How does Texas' Blood Supply Work?

Texas hospitals and EMS are primarily supplied by independent, community blood centers. For example, the Coastal Bend Blood Center provides blood and components to 22 medical facilities across 10 counties in the Coastal Bend, operating bloodmobiles seven days a week to meet hospital and patient needs. In North, Central, and East Texas, Carter BloodCare supplies more than 225 medical facilities across 59 counties, delivering over 450,000 blood products annually as one of Texas' largest nonprofit blood programs. These organizations work alongside other regional blood centers across the state to keep Texas' transfusion system strong and ready for emergencies.

¹ <https://www.texmed.org/TexasMedicineDetail.aspx?Pageid=46106&id=67007>

² <https://www.texasjrac.org/prehospital-blood-programs>

³ <https://haloflight.org>

⁴ <https://www.carterbloodcare.org/blog/blog/2023/04/human-leukocyte-antigens-hla-explained>