

DKMS

DKMS – what we do

Blood cancer charity DKMS encourages more people to join the stem cell register, works to ensure everyone who needs a stem cell transplant has equal access to one, and conducts research focused on continually improving the survival and recovery rate of people with blood cancers or disorders.

DKMS is one of the most significant non-profit organisations in the world dedicated to the fight against blood cancer. Founded in Germany in 1991 by Dr Peter Harf, DKMS and the organisation's over 1,200 employees have since relentlessly pursued the aim of giving as many patients as possible a second chance at life. With more than 12.5 million registered donors, DKMS has succeeded in doing this over 120,000 times to date by providing blood stem cell donations to those in need. This accomplishment has led to DKMS becoming the global leader in the facilitation of unrelated blood stem cell transplants. The organisation has offices in Germany, the US, Poland, the UK, Chile, and South Africa. In India, DKMS has founded the joint venture DKMS-BMST together with the Bangalore Medical Services Trust. International expansion and collaboration are key to helping patients worldwide because, like the organisation itself, blood cancer knows no borders. DKMS is also heavily involved in the fields of medicine and science, with its own research unit focused on continually improving the survival and recovery rate of patients. www.dkms.org.uk

Registering as a stem cell donor

Joining the DKMS stem cell register is a quick and easy process involving some mouth swabs, which takes just a few minutes. www.dkms.org.uk

There's an urgent need for more people to sign up as every 20 minutes, someone in the UK is diagnosed with blood cancer.

Anyone aged 17 – 55 years who is in general good health can register. You can check our eligibility requirements here: dkms.org.uk/eligibility.

You can sign up at a DKMS registration event or go online to receive a mouth swab kit at dkms.org.uk/register

If you're not eligible to sign up, there are lots of other ways you can support DKMS in eliminating blood cancer. For example, you can share information about DKMS with people you know, make a financial donation, or fundraise or volunteer with us: [Get involved | DKMS](#)

Donating stem cells

Donating by PBSC: Today, in nine out of ten cases, stem cell donations are made through a simple, outpatient procedure similar to donating blood platelets.

Donating by bone marrow: Nine out of ten stem cell donations are made through a simple, outpatient procedure similar to giving blood. But in approximately ten per cent of cases, due to the needs of the recipient, a donor's bone marrow is extracted under general anaesthetic via a simple needle in their hip bone. (This usually involves a short hospital stay of one or two days.)

Statistics

Here are some frequently-used statistics.

1. Every 20 minutes, someone in the UK is diagnosed with blood cancer.
2. Blood cancers are the third most common cause of cancer death in the UK.
3. Every year, nearly 13,000 people die from blood cancer in the UK.
4. At any one time, there are around 2,000 people in the UK in need of a stem cell transplant.
5. If you're not eligible to sign up, there are lots of other ways you can support DKMS in eliminating blood cancer. For example, you can share information about DKMS with people you know, make a financial donation, or fundraise or volunteer with us: [Get involved | DKMS](#)
6. DKMS UK now has over one million active, registered donors in the UK. (Over 12.5 million globally.)
7. People of ethnic minority heritage are under-represented on the register, and the harsh reality is that people from these backgrounds can die waiting for a stem cell match, because a matching donor cannot be found for them.

[Find out more at dkms.org.uk](https://www.dkms.org.uk)