



**Blood Bank of Alaska**  
Helping Alaska patients in need

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Current Critical Need**



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## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Rasmuson Foundation Funds New Hemoflow Devices to Increase Blood Collection for Alaska**

Blood donors supply a critical resource for Alaska hospitals. Blood Bank of Alaska depends on the generosity of these donors to ensure that patients in need have blood and blood products for their treatment. There are many pieces of equipment that are utilized in the collection process. When whole blood is drawn from the donor it is captured in a bag that must be gently rocked using a Hemoflow device, which agitates the blood and the anticoagulant agent that prevents clotting. The blood can then be broken into components such as red blood cells, platelets and plasma. The existing Hemoflow 300 devices became obsolete and the manufacturer discontinued service. The Rasmuson Foundation approved funding to replace the outdated Hemoflows with 40 new Hemoflow 400 XS devices. These new devices provide many advantages for blood collection in Alaska such as:

- Efficient inventory management via integrated bar code
- Wireless data networking to communicate specifics during the blood collection process directly with BECS (database software for blood collection)
- Increased monitoring of data points related to volume, draw time, low/high flow and calibration errors
- Lithium Ion rechargeable battery, allowing for 220 draws on one charge
- Provides variable blood collection capability to allow for increased blood collection (ability to collect more blood per donor)



The Rasmuson Foundation provided funding of \$112,166 to purchase the replacement equipment. This assistance will improve the quality of life in the state by allowing Blood Bank of Alaska to increase collection capacity and upgrade the current data collection capability. The new equipment is scheduled to be validated and fully integrated into the organization at all centers and mobile drives in 2015.

Currently, more than 24,000 units are collected each year to fulfill the needs of the state. As the population of Alaska grows, so does the need for blood. Statistics show that one in three Alaskans will need blood in their lifetime and one in seven patients entering a hospital will require blood. Blood products are used by many patients including those with cancer, those undergoing surgical procedures, burn victims, general trauma victims and those with blood related illnesses. As there are no viable substitutes for blood at this time, the funding of this grant will make a difference for Alaska patients in need by providing stronger collecting capacity.

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#### **BLOOD BANK OF ALASKA**

Blood Bank of Alaska supplies blood to 21 Alaska hospitals and medical centers. Blood Bank of Alaska and its donors are dedicated to serving the Alaska community by providing high quality blood products and related laboratory services while meeting changing healthcare needs. Learn more at [www.bloodbankofalaska.org](http://www.bloodbankofalaska.org).