

Overcoming barriers to health care

Programs help people get treated for blood cancers and disorders



The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)/Be The Match helps people get treated for leukemia, sickle cell disease, and other blood disorders.

There are many reasons that people don't get lifesaving treatments such as blood or marrow transplant (BMT) and other cell therapies. Some problems include:

- Not knowing about BMT and cell therapies
- Not enough doctors who do BMT and cell therapies
- Lack of a matching donor
- Complex processes to collect, store and ship cells
- Lack of health insurance coverage
- Lack of money to travel and take time off work for care
- Possible side effects after treatment
- Problems getting follow-up care

NMDP is working on solutions:

- Working with health care providers and patient advocates to share new treatment guidelines
- Asking researchers to include more people from ethnically diverse communities in clinical trials
- Including patients, caregivers while planning research
- Identifying donors through the free HLA Today program
- Researching mismatched donors
- Providing free counseling, financial help, and help finding clinical trials, at the Patient Support Center
- Coordinating health care between patients, caregivers, providers, and health insurers
- Lobbying for better insurance coverage
- Using palliative care to improve patients' quality of life and to reduce caregivers' distress

Learn more about

- [Patient support services and financial support at BeTheMatch.org and 888-999-6743](#)
- [Clinical trials and financial support at CTsearchsupport.org and 888-814-8610](#)
- [More study summaries at CIBMTR.org](#)

Source

Yusuf RA, Preussler JM, Meyer CL, et al. [Reducing barriers of access and care related to hematopoietic cell transplantation and cellular therapy: The mission-driven role of the National Marrow Donor Program](#). Best Practice & Research Clinical Haematology. 2023;36(2):101480. Epub 2023/06/24. doi: 10.1016/j.beha.2023.101480.

About this research summary

This information is provided on behalf of the Consumer Advocacy Committee of CIBMTR® (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research®). CIBMTR is a research collaboration between the National Marrow Donor Program®/Be The Match® and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

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This plain-language summary was written by Jennifer Motl at the Medical College of Wisconsin and reviewed by an author of the full article. © 2023 by CIBMTR, license [CC BY-SA 4.0](#).