

**HOST:** Well, first, you start with the donors.

**MARK SMITH:** Less than 3% of prospective donors end up getting enrolled as qualified donors. You know, it's harder to be a donor than it is to get into MIT.

**HOST:** In order to be a stool bank donor, you must be generally healthy and pass numerous tests.

**SMITH:** So your standard set of questions that are used for blood banks cost a lot more than-- because we don't know what the risk factors might be, so we try to be as kind of comprehensive as possible. Because in absence of evidence, we want to sort of just always make the most conservative decision that we can.

**HOST:** Donor stool samples and blood samples are then sent out for testing for infectious diseases and bacterial and viral infections. If these samples pass, the donors can enroll.