Blood plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 could be a key part of the fight against the disease because it contains antibodies for the new coronavirus. Once the plasma is donated, it can take one of two paths: be directly transfused into patients or used to make a potential plasma-derived medicine.

**DONATION**
Patients who have recovered from COVID-19 donate their blood plasma. This plasma contains antibodies that could help the immune system fight the new coronavirus.

**MEDICINE PRODUCTION**
Plasma is sent to manufacturing facilities. There, it is pooled, processed to remove other antibodies and deactivate viruses, and purified to create a “hyperimmune globulin” that contains a reliably consistent amount of antibodies.

**CLINICAL TRIALS**
Once enough plasma is collected and processed, the potential medicine will go into clinical trials. The trials will study whether it safely and effectively treats people at risk for serious complications from COVID-19.

**APPROVAL**
If regulatory bodies like the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European Medicines Agency (EMA) determine that the potential medicine is both safe and effective, it could be approved to treat patients at risk for serious complications from COVID-19. Companies are also discussing potential use across the world with other national health authorities.

**AVAILABILITY**
Once manufactured and distributed, the potential medicine will be ready for use. The timing depends on many factors, but in the best-case scenario, it could be available sometime this year, making it one of the earliest approved scalable treatment options. This medicine would serve as a bridge until a vaccine is readily available.