

Blood Donor Educational Materials **MAKING YOUR BLOOD DONATION SAFE**

PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION BEFORE YOU DONATE! If you have any questions now or anytime during the screening process, please ask blood center staff.

THANK YOU FOR COMING IN TODAY!

This information sheet explains how **YOU** can help us make the donation process safe for yourself and for the patients who might receive your blood.

ACCURACY AND HONESTY ARE ESSENTIAL!

Your **complete honesty** in answering all questions is very important for the safety of patients who receive your blood. **All information you provide is confidential.**

DONATION PROCESS:

To determine if you are eligible to donate we will:

- Ask questions about health, medications and travel
- Ask questions to see if you might be at risk for hepatitis, HIV, or AIDS
- Take your blood pressure, temperature and pulse
- Take a small blood sample to make sure you are not anemic

If you are able to donate we will:

- Cleanse your arm with an antiseptic. **If you are allergic to Alcohol, please tell us!**
- Use a new, sterile, disposable needle and collection set to collect your blood product(s).

Travel to or birth in other countries

Blood donor tests may not be available for some contagious diseases that are found only in certain countries. If you were born in, have lived in, or visited certain countries, you may not be eligible to donate.

DONOR ELIGIBILITY – SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Why we ask questions about sexual contact:

Sexual contact may cause contagious diseases like HIV to get into the bloodstream and be spread through transfusions to someone else.

Definition of “sexual contact”:

The words “sexual contact with” and “sex” are used in some of the questions we will ask you, and apply to any of the activities below, whether or not a condom or other protection was used:

1. Vaginal sex (contact between penis and vagina)
2. Oral sex (mouth or tongue on someone’s vagina, penis, or anus)
3. Anal sex (contact between penis and anus)

HIV/AIDS RISK BEHAVIORS AND SYMPTOMS

AIDS is caused by HIV. HIV can be spread through sexual contact with an infected person OR by sharing needles or syringes used for injecting drugs with an infected person.

DO NOT DONATE IF YOU:

- Have AIDS or have ever had a positive HIV test
- Have ever used needles to take drugs, steroids, or anything not prescribed by your doctor
- Are a male who has had sexual contact with another male in the past 12 months
- Have ever taken money, drugs or other payment for sex
- Have had sexual contact in the past 12 months with anyone described above
- Have had syphilis or gonorrhea in the past 12 months
- Have been in juvenile detention, lockup, jail or prison for more than 72 hours in the past 12 months
- Have any of the following conditions that can be signs or symptoms of HIV/AIDS:
 - Unexplained weight loss or night sweats
 - Blue or purple spots in your mouth or skin
 - Swollen lymph nodes for more than one month
 - White spots or unusual sores in your mouth
 - Cough that won’t go away or shortness of breath
 - Diarrhea that won’t go away
 - Fever of more than 100.4°F for more than 10 days

Remember that you CAN give HIV to someone else through blood transfusions even if you feel well and have a negative HIV test. This is because tests cannot detect infections for a period of time after a person is exposed to HIV. **If you think you may be at risk for HIV/AIDS or want an HIV/AIDS test, please ask for information about other testing facilities. PLEASE DO NOT DONATE TO GET AN HIV TEST!**

What happens after your donation?

For patient safety, your blood will be tested for hepatitis B and C, HIV, syphilis and certain other infectious diseases, as mandated by public health agencies. Additional testing may be required to ensure the safety and efficacy of the blood product donated. If your blood tests positive for an infectious disease, it will not be given to a patient. You will be notified about test results that may disqualify you from donating in the future. **Please do not donate to get tested for HIV, hepatitis, or any other infections!**

Blood Donor Educational Materials
Important Information About Your Blood Donation

You will be requested to sign a statement that you have read and understand these educational materials. By signing the Consent on the donor history card, you are certifying that:

- You are at least 17 years of age, or if younger, have written parental consent.
- You are voluntarily donating blood.
- You will not donate blood for transfusion if you know that you have Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), have tested positive for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), or believe that you have been exposed to HIV.
- Your blood will be tested for HIV, hepatitis, syphilis, and other infectious agents that may be transmitted by blood.
- You give consent for the blood center to perform any test necessary to process your donation, including a screening test for sickle cell trait. Testing for other infectious agents may involve the use of investigational tests.
- You understand that if your blood tests positive for any infectious agents, it will not be used for transfusion.
- You will be notified of any significant positive test results or positive results that will affect your eligibility to donate blood in the future. On rare occasion, technical problems may arise that could make it impossible to test your blood.
- You are aware that if your blood cannot be tested, it will not be used for transfusion.
- You understand that the collection facility maintains a deferral registry of donors who are ineligible to donate blood because of positive infectious disease test results or disqualifying donor histories.
- Your donor test results are confidential and will not be released to anyone without your written consent except for confirmed positive test results for certain communicable diseases which will be reported to state and local public health agencies as mandated by law.

UCLA offers a confidential HIV testing program. For information, call UCLA at (310) 825-7955. For additional information and free alternative testing sites, call the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at (800) 232-4636. It is a felony in California for a person with AIDS or who has tested positive for HIV to knowingly donate blood.

Ways to Disqualify Yourself:

- Leave now without giving blood. You may disqualify yourself without giving any information.
- Talk with the person who takes your medical history who can help you with any questions or concerns. All information is confidential.
- Let us know that we should not give your blood to another person. If after leaving, you feel your blood should not be used, call the numbers listed on your post donation form as soon as possible, preferably within four hours, and tell us in confidence not to use your blood.

Thank you for donating blood today!