



YOU MUST READ THIS BEFORE YOU DONATE!

- Your **accurate and honest** responses are **critical to the safety of patients who receive blood transfusions.**
- Each question is necessary to fully evaluate the safety of your donation.
- As required by regulations, we are instructing you not to donate blood if you have a risk factor.
- If you don't understand a question, ask the blood center staff for assistance.
- YOUR RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

To determine if you are eligible to donate, we will:

- Ask about your health and medications you are taking or have taken.
- Ask if you have traveled to or lived in other countries.
- Ask about your risk for infections that can be transmitted by blood – especially HIV (which is the virus that causes AIDS), and viral hepatitis.
- Take your blood pressure, temperature, and pulse.
- Take a blood sample to be sure your blood count is acceptable before you donate.

If you are eligible to donate, we will:

- Clean your arm with an antiseptic (Tell us if you have any skin allergies).
- Use a sterile needle and tubing set to collect your blood.

We NEVER reuse a needle or tubing set.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOUR DONATION

To protect patients, your blood is tested for hepatitis B and C, HIV, syphilis, and other infections. If your blood tests positive, it will not be given to a patient. You will be notified about any positive test result which may affect when you are eligible to donate in the future. There are times when your blood is not tested. If this occurs, you may not receive any notification. The blood center will not release your test results without your written permission unless required by law (e.g., to the Health Department).

DONOR ELIGIBILITY – SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Certain infectious diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis, can be spread through:

- Sexual contact
- Other activities that increase risk
- Blood transfusion

We will ask specific questions about sexual contact and other activities that may increase risk for these infections.

What do we mean by “sexual contact?”

The words “have sexual contact with” and “sex” are used in some of the questions we will ask you. These questions apply to all of the activities below, whether or not medications, condoms or other protection were used to prevent infection or pregnancy:

- Vaginal sex (contact between penis and vagina)
- Oral sex (mouth or tongue on someone's vagina, penis, or anus)
- Anal sex (contact between penis and anus)

A “new sexual partner” includes the following examples:

- Having sex with someone for the first time
OR
- Having had sex with someone in a relationship that ended in the past, and having sex again with that person in the last 3 months.

HIV/Hepatitis risk factors

HIV and hepatitis are spread mainly by sexual contact with an infected person OR by sharing needles or syringes used by an infected person to inject drugs.

DO NOT DONATE if you:

- **Have EVER taken any medication to treat HIV infection.**
- **Are taking any medication to prevent HIV infection. These medications may be called: PrEP, PEP, TRUVADA, DESCOVY, APRETUDE or many other names.**

FDA-approved antiretroviral drugs are safe and effective in preventing sexual transmission of HIV. However, these antiretroviral drugs do not fully eliminate the virus from the body, and donated blood can potentially still transmit HIV infection to a transfusion recipient.

DO NOT STOP TAKING ANY PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS IN ORDER TO DONATE BLOOD, INCLUDING PrEP and PEP MEDICATIONS.

DO NOT DONATE if you:

- Have EVER had a positive test for HIV infection.
- In the past 3 months:
 - Have had sexual contact with a new partner and have had anal sex.
 - Have had sexual contact with more than one partner and have had anal sex.
 - Have had sexual contact with anyone who has ever had a positive test for HIV infection.
 - Have received money, drugs, or other payment for sex.
 - Have used needles to inject drugs, steroids, or anything not prescribed by your doctor.
 - Have had sexual contact with anyone who has received money, drugs, or other payment for sex, or used needles to inject drugs, steroids, or anything not prescribed by their doctor.
 - Have had syphilis or gonorrhea or been treated for syphilis or gonorrhea.
- **In the past 12 months:**
 - Have been in juvenile detention, lockup, jail or prison for 72 hours or more consecutively.
- Have **EVER** had Ebola virus infection or disease.

DO NOT DONATE if you have these symptoms which can be present before you test positive for HIV:

- Fever
- Enlarged lymph glands
- Sore throat
- Rash

Your blood can transmit infections, including HIV, even if you feel well and all your tests are normal. Even the best tests cannot detect the virus for a period of time after you are infected.

DO NOT DONATE:

- If you think you may be at risk for HIV or other infections.
- If your purpose for donating is to obtain test results for HIV or other infections. Ask us where you can be tested for HIV and other infections.
- If your donation might harm the patient who receives your blood.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING BLOOD TODAY!
THE BLOOD CENTER
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 504-524-1322



Complications related to blood donation include:

A drop in blood pressure, light-headedness, fainting, nausea, vomiting, dyspnea, dizziness, pallor, feelings of warmth, chills, excessive tiredness, convulsions, rapid pulse rate, anxiety/fear, allergic symptoms, arterial puncture, cardiac arrhythmias, or nerve damage. There is the risk of a hematoma at the needle site (leakage of blood into surrounding tissue) causing temporary bruising and possible brief discomfort.

Post Donation Iron Deficiency

What happens to me during a blood donation?

Red blood cells are red because of the way iron is carried in hemoglobin, a protein that brings oxygen to the body. Therefore, the removal of red blood cells during blood donation also removes iron from your body. The impact of this iron loss on your health varies among donors.

How does blood donation affect iron stored in my body?

Iron is needed to make new red blood cells to replace those you lose from donation. To make new red blood cells, your body either uses iron already stored in your body or uses iron that is in the food you eat. Many women have only a small amount of iron stored in their body, which is not enough to replace the red blood cells lost from even a single donation. Men have more iron stored in their body. However, men who donate blood often (more than two times per year) may also have low iron stores.

Does the blood center test for low iron stores in my body?

No, the blood center does not perform testing to determine whether or not your iron stores are sufficient. The Blood Center performs a hematocrit test or hemoglobin test. **You may have deficient iron stores in your body and still have a normal hematocrit or hemoglobin result at the time of donation.**

How may low iron stores affect me?

There are several possible symptoms associated with low iron stores. These include fatigue, decreased exercise capacity, and pica (a craving to chew things such as ice or chalk).

As a blood donor, what can I do to maintain my iron stores?

While eating a well-balanced diet is important for all donors, simply eating iron-rich foods *may not* replace all the iron lost from blood donation. If you experience any of the symptoms in section 4 and this is unusual for you, you should consult your physician.

Donor Consent: I understand that my donation is voluntary and that I may withdraw my consent at any time. I know that I have the right to ask questions of and discuss the procedure with a physician. The procedure has been fully explained to me by TBC personnel.

Thank you for donating today!
The Blood Center
(504) 524-1322