

Blood Donor Educational Materials

Making Your Blood Donation Safe

Blood Donor Educational Materials: MAKING YOUR BLOOD DONATION SAFE

Thank you for coming in today! This information sheet explains how **YOU** can help us make the donation process safe for yourself and patients who might receive your blood. **PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION BEFORE YOU DONATE! If you have any questions now or anytime during the screening process, please ask blood center staff.**

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, travel, and medicines
- 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.
- Use a new, sterile, disposable needle to collect your blood

POSSIBLE DONATION COMPLICATIONS:

Most donors tolerate giving blood well, but on occasion reactions and complications may occur. These include bruising, nerve damage, or infection at the puncture site; anxiety; feeling warm or cold; nausea or vomiting; muscle spasms; and dizziness or fainting. Injuries from falls following dizziness or fainting may also occur. Such reactions and complications may occur more frequently with younger donors. Our staff is trained to recognize and manage donor reactions. You should take care to listen to all instructions from our staff and to be alert to signs of the above reactions, including during time spent in the recovery area following your donation.

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 “have 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 is spread mainly through sexual contact with an infected person OR by sharing needles or syringes used for injecting drugs.

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, even once, since 1977
- Have ever taken money, drugs or other payment for sex since 1977
- Have had sexual contact in the past 12 months with anyone described above
- Have had syphilis or gonorrhea in the past 12 months
- In the last 12 months have been in juvenile detention, lockup, jail or prison for more than 72 hours
- 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 100.5 °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!**

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.

What happens after your donation:

To protect patients, your blood is tested for hepatitis B and C, HIV, certain other infectious diseases and syphilis. If your blood tests positive 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!

From time to time, NYBC may offer additional health-related screening tests (such as cholesterol testing) to donors. Donors will be advised at the time of donation concerning the specific test(s) that may be performed, and provided with the opportunity to decline the offer. The results of any additional health related screening tests will be provided directly to the donor.

Some of your blood may be used for research studies which will be conducted in accordance with guidelines established by the New York Blood Center’s committee for protection of human subjects. If the results from any study could affect your health, you will be notified.

If you are donating just to have your blood tested for the HIV virus, please contact your State Department of Health.

New Jersey State Department of Health 1-800-624-2377

New York State Department of Health 1-800-541-2437

If you respond to the optional question regarding your racial or ethnic group, your blood may also be tested for the presence of a rare blood type.

Your blood may also be used in studies of new research or investigational tests being developed to improve the safety of the blood supply.

If you are a person with Hemochromatosis

Revised FDA and State guidelines permit NYBC to accept voluntary blood donations from individuals with hemochromatosis. Blood from donors with hemochromatosis, who pass donor eligibility and screening test requirements, will be made available to patients.

Donors with hemochromatosis will not be charged any fee for blood collection. This policy applies even if they fail to pass donor eligibility requirements or if their routine screening tests are found to be positive. These units will not be made available to patients.

If You Have Any Questions

If you have any questions or concerns about giving blood please speak to the Health Historian.

You should call our Special Donor and Community Health Services

Department at 1-800-688-0900 if, after giving blood you:

- become aware of any information about your health that would affect whether or not we should transfuse your blood
- believe your blood is not safe for transfusion due to risk factors for HIV, as described above, or any other infectious disease

What Happens To The Test Results

- You may be asked to speak with one of our Blood Center medical professionals if your blood tests positive. You may also be asked to return for a follow-up visit and further testing. Your consent will be requested again at that time.
- The names of donors whose blood tests positive are kept in confidential files.
- These files can be opened solely by authorized personnel of the Blood Center.
- The Blood Center will not release positive test results without your written consent unless required by law (e.g. to the Health Department, FDA, or by judicial process).
- If you are found to have a rare blood type based on the optional screening program, we will notify you by mail.

We will not notify you if your test results are negative or if sample tubes do not provide enough blood to complete all laboratory tests.

Some products used in blood collection contain natural latex rubber which may cause allergic reactions.

Thank you for donating blood today!

△ New York Blood Center