

# **ABOUT BLOOD DONATION**

## **St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital Blood Donor Program Houston, Texas 77030**

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### **Information You Should Know**

*Patients at St. Luke's -as at all hospitals-sometimes require blood transfusions. Because the overall supply of blood is limited (blood cannot be manufactured) blood donors are needed everyday. For this reason, individuals, patient's families, and friends of patients are encouraged to donate regularly.*

***If you have questions at any time during the donations process please ask.***

### ***About Donating Blood***

- First, please read this information and decide if you should give blood today.
- Second, we will ask you questions about your medical history.
- Third, we will ask you to sign your donor card. The card says that you understand this information and that you have honestly answered all of our questions.
- Fourth, we will tell you how to let us know in confidence if we should or should not give your blood to another person.
- Fifth, you will give blood and then relax for a while.
- Sixth, after you give you will relax for a few minutes and enjoy light refreshments.

### ***About Testing Your Blood***

Your blood donation will be tested for various infectious agents. Some of the tests may be investigational (research) tests. Any blood testing positive will not be used for transfusion. You will be notified of any test results that are important to your health or that affect your eligibility to donate. To better interpret and understand the results of these tests, it may be necessary to contact you for follow-up testing. All results are confidential. Information is never released over the phone.

**AIDS** - the test that detects HIV, the AIDS virus

**HTLV types I/II** a virus that may cause a blood or nerve disease

**HEPATITIS B and C**, viruses that cause liver infection

**SYPHILIS** - a venereal disease

### ***Your Name May Be Added to a LIST***

A confidential list is kept of donors' names whose blood might make someone sick. If your medical history or blood tests are unclear, or if they show that your blood might make someone sick, we will put your name on this list. Only your name is on this list, not the reason you were put on the list.

### ***Are Our Tests Perfect?***

Our tests are very good, but no test is perfect. We are counting on you to be honest when we ask you the following things about your health and about things you may have done.

### ***About Your Health***

- Have you lost a lot of weight without trying? (For most people, this would mean losing 10 pounds or more in 2 months.)
- Do you sweat a lot at night?
- Have you had blue or purple spots on or under your skin, or inside your mouth or nose?
- Have you had white or unusual spots in your mouth that did not go away?
- Have you had swollen glands that last more than a month?
- Have you had a fever greater than 99E for more than 10 days?
- Have you had a cough, shortness of breath, or diarrhea that will not go away?

## ***About Things You May Have Done***

- Do you have AIDS or have you ever had a positive test for the AIDS virus? In the last 12 months have you had sex with someone who has?
- Men, have you had sex with another man even one time since 1977?
- Women, in the last 12 months have you had sex with a man who has had sex with another man?
- Have you used a needle, even once, to take drugs that were not prescribed by a doctor? In the last 12 months have you had sex with someone who has?
- Have you taken money or drugs for sex at any time since 1977? In the last 12 months have you had sex with some that has taken money or drugs for sex?
- Have you given money or drugs to someone else for sex in the last 12 months?
- Have you had or been treated for syphilis or gonorrhea in the last 12 months? Have you had sex with someone who has?
- Have you taken clotting factor concentrates for a bleeding problem such as hemophilia? In the last 12 months have you had sex with someone who has?
- Were you born in, lived in, or traveled to Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Niger, Nigeria?
- If you traveled to Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Niger, Nigeria did you receive a blood transfusion or treatment with a product made from blood?
- Have you had sexual contact with some that was born in, lived in, or traveled to Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Niger, Nigeria?
- Have you been given blood in the last 12 months for any reason, such as an accident or surgery?
- Have you been held in a correctional institution (including jails and prisons) within the last year for more than 72 hours?
- Are you giving blood because you want to be tested for HIV or the AIDS virus?

All of these activities are called "risk factors". **IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS ABOVE, YOU MUST NOT GIVE BLOOD.** Your blood could give someone the AIDS virus.

It is illegal to give blood if you have tested positive for the HIV virus or if you have AIDS. You can be fined up to \$20,000 and/or go to jail for up to 10 years. Do not donate to get an AIDS test. If you want an AIDS test, call 1-800-342-AIDS to find out where to get a test. The phone call is free:

**1-800-342-AIDS**

***There are three things you can do:***

- **Leave now without giving blood, or**
- **Talk with the person who takes your medical history,** who can help you with any questions or concerns, or
- **Let us know in secret** that we should not give your blood to another person.
- Do not give blood just to get an AIDS test.

### **United Kingdom Deferral**

Donors that have spent a total of 6 months or more from 1980 to 1996 in the United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands) are deferred from donating whole blood or blood components.

***To our donors:***

Occasionally an adverse reaction may occur during donation, such as a hematoma, an arterial puncture, a nerve irritation and/or a fainting spell.

St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, located in the Texas medical Center, was founded in 1954 by the Episcopal Church. A nonprofit, multispecialty teaching hospital, St. Luke's is home to the world-renowned Texas Heart Institute. St. Luke's offers a full range of outpatient services and wellness programs, as well as a comprehensive physician network serving the greater Houston community.

St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital \* 6720 Bertner Avenue \* Houston, Texas \* (832) 355-4483 (GIVE)