



Common Questions About Blood Donor Eligibility

KENTUCKY BLOOD CENTER
Lexington, Kentucky
(859) 276-2534

Who is eligible to donate blood?

To be eligible to donate blood, a person must be in good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years of age. (Beginning July 1, 2008, 16-year-olds in Kentucky can donate with parental consent). There is no upper age limit. Donors must provide a photo ID, such as a drivers' license or government ID.

What is a deferral?

Donors who are temporarily or permanently ineligible to donate blood are listed in a confidential national data base known as the *Donor Deferral Register*. Eligibility is focused on assuring the highest possible quality and safety of the U.S. blood supply. The criteria is determined and regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which controls federal licensure of blood banks.

Can I donate if I have Circulation and Heart-Related Disorders?

High Blood Pressure (controlled): Eligible!

Angiogram (cardiac catheter): Accept if no further treatment was required.

Arrhythmia: Yes, if there are no other cardiac problems and no physician imposed restriction on normal activity and no more than six missed beats per minute while on medication. If conditions not met, physician permission needed.

Can I donate if I am Taking Medicine?

Accutane® (isotretinoin): 30-day deferral after last dose

Aspirin (ASA) and aspirin containing drugs: If you have taken these drugs in the last 2 days, you are not eligible for platelet donations, however you are eligible for red cell donations.

Avodart® (dutasteride): Six-month deferral after last dose

Growth hormones before 1985: Permanent deferral

Hepatitis B Immune Globulin: One-year deferral after last dose

Insulin from cows (bovine, or beef): Permanent deferral

Plavix® (clopidogrel): If you have taken this drug in the last 14 days, you are not eligible for platelet donations however are acceptable for red cell donations.

Propecia® (finasteride): 30-day deferral after last dose

Proscar® (finasteride): 30-day deferral after last dose

Soriatane® (acitretin): Three-year deferral after last dose

Tegison® (etretinate): Permanent deferral

Ticlid® (ticlopidine hydrochloride): If you have taken this drug in the last 14 days, you are not eligible for platelet donations however are acceptable for red cell donations.

Tazorac: 30 days after last dose

Can I donate if I have an Ailment or Medical Condition?

Acid Reflux: Eligible!

Acne, using topical ointments and oral antibiotics: Eligible!

Acne, taking Accutane or Tazorac: 30-day deferral after last dose

Allergies, Mild symptoms: Eligible!

Arthritis (Osteo/Rheumatoid): Eligible!

Cancer, external skin: Basal or Squamous cell- Eligible if removed and healed.

Cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, or melanoma: Permanent deferral

Cancer, most other types: Five years

Canker sore/fever blister/cold sore: Eligible!

Cold/flu: Three-day deferral

Crohn's disease, asymptomatic: Eligible!

Diabetes, feeling well: Eligible!

Diarrhea: Not present in four days

Eczema, no infected lesions: Eligible!

Headache: Eligible!

Needle stick, non sterile: One-year deferral

Psoriasis: Eligible if no lesions in area of venipuncture.

Poison Ivy, no lesions in venipuncture area: Eligible!

Ringworm, not in venipuncture area: Eligible!

Stroke: One-year deferral

Thyroid, hyper/hypo, controlled by meds: Eligible!

Ulcerative colitis, asymptomatic: Eligible!

UTI (urinary tract infection): Three days after antibiotic treatment

Can I donate if I have STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)?

Herpes, Acceptable unless sores are never healing: Eligible!

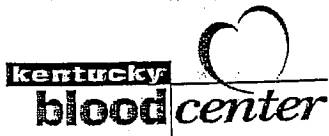
Syphilis/gonorrhea: One-year deferral after treatment is complete.

Can I donate if I have had Hepatitis Contact?

Casual contact, hospital personnel: Eligible!

Household/sexual, patient has Hepatitis A, B or hepatitis C with symptoms: one-year deferral

Household/sexual, patient has hepatitis C with no symptoms in past 12 months: Eligible!



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Issues That Concern Men:

PSA elevated, benign prostrate hyperplasia: Eligible!
PSA, taking Proscar: 30-day deferral
Propecia for baldness: 30-day deferral

Issues That Concern Women:

Pregnancy, abortion or miscarriage: Six-week deferral
Post-menopause, hormone replacement: Eligible!
Birth control pills: Eligible!
Routine mammogram: Eligible!

Can I donate if I have had Shots and Vaccinations?

Botox Injections: Eligible!
Flu Shot: Eligible!
Gamma globulin, no hepatitis exposure: Eligible!
Gamma globulin, HBIG, exposure to hepatitis: One-year deferral
Local Anesthetic Injections for dental work: Eligible!
Pain/ Arthritis injections: Eligible!
Polio, Sabin (oral): Two-week deferral

Polio, Salk (injection): Eligible!
Rabies vaccine: Eligible!

Steroid injection, joint: Eligible!
TB Test, routine, negative: Eligible!
Tetanus booster: Eligible!
Human Papillomavirus Vaccine: Eligible!

Tattoos, Acupuncture or Body Piercing?

Tattoo: You are eligible if applied by a state-regulated parlor in the state of Kentucky. A tattoo applied in other circumstances is a one-year deferral.
Ear/Body piercing: Acceptable if equipment used was one time single use.
Acupuncture, single-use equipment: Eligible!

Can I donate if I have had Surgery and Grafts?

Major surgery with blood transfusion: One-year deferral
Grafts, autologous (from self): If fibrin glue was used: One-year deferral
Grafts, autologous (from self): If fibrin glue was not used: Eligible!
Grafts, allogenic (from someone else): One-year deferral

Travel Outside the US and Canada

Travel to United Kingdom for a cumulative total of three months or more between 1980 and 1996: Permanent deferral
Travel to Europe for a cumulative total of five years or more since 1980, or military service in Europe for six months or more during certain periods since 1980: Permanent deferral
Certain Central and West African countries since 1977, three months or longer stay: Permanent deferral
Sexual partner of above: Permanent deferral
Malaria endemic countries: One to three-year deferral

United Kingdom

England
N. Ireland
Scotland
Wales
The Isle of Man
The Channel Islands
Gibraltar
The Falkland Islands

Europe

Albania
Austria
Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Republic of Ireland
Italy

EUROPE continued

Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Macedonia
Netherlands
Norway
Oman
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovak Republic
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia