



INFORMATION TO BLOOD DONORS ON DISEASES TRANSMITTED THROUGH BLOOD TRANSFUSION

There are many diseases/infections that can be transmitted through unsafe blood transfusion. In Tanzania and other developing countries we are mainly concerned with HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and syphilis due to its prevalence in our population. These four diseases are similar in a way that they are all transmitted through sexual contact and blood transfusion. HIV, Hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections are caused by the viruses while syphilis is caused by bacteria. People who are infected by any of the virus/bacteria may feel completely healthy, but they can transmit the organisms to someone who receives their blood. A blood test can be used to test your infection status, although the result may be negative for several weeks after being infected with the virus/bacteria. The virus/bacteria can still be passed to another person during this time. If you have tested positive for any of the four diseases, had sex with someone at risk of contracting the virus/bacteria or have a history of any other sexually transmitted diseases, **DO NOT DONATE BLOOD.**

The following are the risk factors for acquiring the disease, if you have any of them please DO NOT DONATE BLOOD;

- Had a new sex partner in the past 6 months
- Had more than one sexual partner in the past 6 months
- If you are a man who had sex with another man in the past 6 months
- Do you have a sex partner had sex partner more than you in the past 6 months
- Do you have history of taking illegal drugs within the past 6 months
- Had any tattooing or body piercing e.g. ear piercing?
- If you have taken money or drugs for sex.
- Having sex within the last 12 months with someone who has been involved in any of the activities listed above.
- Have been a victim of sexual assault e.g. rape or sodomy? In the past 12 months
- I have received blood or blood products for any reason, within the last 12 months.
- Had a sexually transmitted disease (STD)?
- I have had sex in the past 12 months with someone who has AIDS or who has tested positive for the AIDS virus.
- Had a stab wound or accidentally needle stick injury in the past 12 months
- Received a blood transfusion or blood products in the past 12 months
- Had contact with someone with yellow eyes or yellow skin in the past 12 months
- Had yellow eyes or yellow skin in the past 12 months
- Been diagnosed of hepatitis before
- Been in contact with a person with hepatitis or Jaundice in the past one year

If you have had or done even one of these things, then you have increased your risk of having the above named organisms and YOU SHOULD NOT GIVE BLOOD. Your Blood will be tested for HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and Syphilis and If your blood test positive for any of the four diseases you will be referred to the nearest health facility for care and treatment. If your blood test shows that you have HIV you will not be allowed to donate blood again.

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Donate Blood, Save Lives