PLEASE READ THIS LEAFLET AND HELP US TO KEEP BLOOD TRANSFUSION SAFE

There is a small number of illnesses which can be transmitted from donors to patients. This is because some apparently healthy people can carry viruses or other agents in their blood which may not affect them but which could result in illness in the patients who receive their blood. Because of this, special regulations apply to donors who have had some forms of *Hepatitis* or who have been exposed to *Malaria.*

More recently another disease known as AIDS has been described.

AIDS *(Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)*

This is a condition, at present quite rare in the U.K., in which the body's natural resistance to various diseases is seriously reduced. The cause of AIDS is unknown, but the disease, which is frequently fatal, may be transmitted by blood or blood products. There is no laboratory test available yet to identify donors who might transmit AIDS. For the present therefore, it is important that those who belong to certain groups, who have an above average risk of contracting this condition, should not donate. These groups are:

- residents of or visitors to certain areas such as Chad, Haiti and Zaire
- sexually active homosexual men
- present or past abusers of intravenous drugs
- sexual partners, male or female, of any of the above people.

If you think that you might belong to any of these groups, please do not donate blood at present. If you have any questions please ask to see the doctor at the donor session or contact one of the medical consultants at your Regional Blood Transfusion Centre.

Please remember there is **no** *risk of getting any of the above illnesses from* **giving** *blood.*

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