

SNBTS/JDC/DRAFTINFORMATION FOR BLOOD DONORS

Our primary concern is for your safety and for the safety of the patients who receive your blood donation. As a consequence you may be aware, if you have already donated, that we have for many years, checked to ensure whether you are anaemic and whether you have active but unknown hepatitis or syphilis.

We want you to know that we are about to introduce an important **new addition** to our donor health screening programme - all donations will now be tested to see whether you have been exposed to the virus which may cause AIDS. We would stress the word may because our tests, if positive, will only tell us you could have been exposed to the virus. IT DOES NOT MEAN YOU HAVE AIDS OR INDEED WILL EVENTUALLY SUFFER FROM AIDS.

In the unlikely event that your blood is positive for this new test you will be contacted by medical staff at the Regional Transfusion Centre so that confirmatory tests and appropriate medical counselling can be arranged. As has been our practice over several decades complete confidentiality of your medical history will be maintained.

Please remember

- A. Do not volunteer to give a blood donation if you are or have been:
 - 1. Resident in central African countries such as Chad and Zaire.
 - 2. A practising homosexual or bisexual man.
 - 3. A drug abuser, both men and women, who injects drugs.
 - 4. A sexual partner of people in these groups (2 and 3 above).

- B. We will not be able to accept your donation if you are unable to agree to have the new ("AIDS") test performed on your donation. You will be asked at the donor session to sign that you agree.

- C. There is absolutely no danger of your getting AIDS by donating blood.

- D. Blood is urgently needed to treat so many ill patients: we desperately need you to work with us.