



Prescriptions of Swiss Transfusion SRC (T-CH SRC)

(according to the European directives)

Risks for the donor

Blood donation involves puncturing a vein on the inside of the elbow and withdrawing about 500 ml of blood in about 10 minutes. This rapid blood loss is generally well tolerated by a person in good health. That is why it is important for you to be in good health. If the results of our examinations (blood pressure and haemoglobin test) or your answers to the medical questionnaire show that donating your blood may involve a significant risk to your health, we will not collect your blood for donation. However, even if all precautionary measures are taken, certain unwanted side effects may occur during or after blood donation:

- a transient blood pressure drop,
- local complications at the puncture site (bruising, widening of a blood vessel, nerve damage).

Most of these side effects are harmless and of short duration. Nevertheless, very rare and potentially severe complications (e.g. longer-term reduced mobility of the arm) cannot be totally excluded. Your blood donation centre will give you useful advice on the best way to avoid or to treat these side effects.

You must wait a minimum of 12 hours before carrying out activities, occupations or hobbies in which you might endanger yourself or others.

Precautionary measures to reduce the risk of your blood donation for the recipient:

1. Risk situations

There is a risk of transmitting infectious agents that might be present in your blood even if you are not ill or do not feel ill.

Your answers to the medical questionnaire help us to evaluate this risk. Based on the rules of Swiss Transfusion SRC regarding eligibility to donate blood, you may be excluded from donating blood, either permanently or temporarily.

The following risk situations are reasons for permanent exclusion from blood donation

1. Positive test for HIV (AIDS), syphilis, hepatitis C and persisting/active hepatitis B
2. Sexual intercourse* for money, drugs or medication
3. Drug injection (at present or in the past)
4. Blood transfusion after 01.01.1980
5. Stay in the United Kingdom/UK (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Islands, Gibraltar, Falkland Islands) between 01.01.1980 and 31.12.1996 for a total of 6 months or longer

The following risk situations may be a reason for deferral of blood donation

6. Stay during the past 6 months in a region where malaria is endemic, without any health problem (in case of illness with fever, tell the doctor at the blood donation center)
7. Suffering from a sexually transmitted disease during the past 12 months
8. Change of sexual partner* during the past 4 months
9. Sexual intercourse* with multiple partners during the past 12 months
10. Sexual intercourse* between men in the past 12 months
11. Stay of 6 months or longer in the past 12 months in countries with a high HIV-prevalence
12. Sexual intercourse* during the past 12 months with partners exposed to any of the risk situations mentioned under 1 to 4 or 7 to 11, while the deferral period after sexual contact with partners with hepatitis B or C is 6 months

*whether protected or not

At any time before, during or after donating, you may withdraw from blood donation and prohibit the use of your donated blood if it has not yet been transfused.

2. Laboratory tests

Every blood donation is tested for HIV (AIDS), hepatitis B and C viruses (jaundice), the syphilis agent and, if necessary, Parvo B19 and hepatitis A virus. Should any of the test results indicate any disease, you will immediately be informed and the blood you donated will not be used. However, there may be a time lapse between becoming infected and the laboratory tests showing a positive result. Therefore, if you donate blood during this time lapse, an infectious disease may be transmitted from you to the recipient without the transfusion centre being able to detect or prevent it. This is why it is of the utmost importance that you answer the questionnaire truthfully. The ABO, Rhesus D blood group and possibly other characteristics that may be relevant to transfusion medicine are determined for each donor (if necessary by genetic methods).

3. Please inform your blood donation centre as soon as possible, if:

- you or one of your close contacts is taken ill during the next few days,
- you realize that you did not answer one of the questions on the medical questionnaire correctly,
- your blood donation is followed by complications.

Personal information given in connection with blood donation is subject to medical secrecy. It will only be used within Swiss Transfusion SRC and the Regional Blood Transfusion Service. The Regional Blood Transfusion Service is legally obliged to report notifiable diseases to the authorities.