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0800 252266
welshblood.org.uk

Information for Donors with Genetic Haemochromatosis

I have Genetic Haemochromatosis, can I donate?

People with Genetic Haemochromatosis (GH) can be accepted as blood donors in both the therapeutic and maintenance stages of their treatment providing they meet all the donor selection criteria, are well with no end tissue damage due to iron overload and are not on any medication for their condition.

Blood donors with haemochromatosis and the doctor who manages their condition are advised that they remain under the care of the hospital consultant or GP for monitoring of the disease and the effects of venesection. The Welsh Blood Service (WBS) collects blood for the benefit of patients and does not provide any form of additional treatment. Your doctor is also responsible for informing you on how frequently you should donate (see 'how often can I donate?'). It is extremely important that you donate at the intervals your doctor recommends.

How do I become a blood donor?

Your hospital Consultant or GP will have referred you to the WBS if you have declared that you would like to enrol as a blood donor or if they believe this would be suitable for you.

What happens next?

Once a member of the WBS clinical support team has received the referral we will contact you to arrange a convenient appointment at a location suitable for you.

Blood Safety

Our first priority at WBS is to ensure that blood for patients is as safe as possible. For this reason, we do not collect blood from anyone who does not meet our criteria for donation. This means that we may not be able to take blood from you. You should also be aware we will be testing your blood for certain things, as

we do for all donors, and this includes HIV; Hepatitis and Syphilis. Donors with a history of blood borne infections such as these are not eligible to donate

It is important for blood safety that donors with Genetic Haemochromatosis do not feel under pressure to give a donation when they are not suitable. Your doctor will make alternative arrangements to bleed you if you are not able to donate.

Is there an age limit for donation?

All donors must be:

- 17 or over
- If you are 66 or older you must have given at least one successful donation or venesection previously.
- If you are over 70 you must have given a successful donation or venesection in the last 2 years.

How often can I donate blood?

Many donors with haemochromatosis, are currently donating at 12 weekly intervals or longer. If this donation interval is suitable to manage the maintenance of your haemochromatosis then the current system supports you.

However, some donors with haemochromatosis may need to donate blood more often than this. If your doctor recommends that you donate blood more frequently, we can make arrangements for you to do this but it will be essential that you have a pre-booked appointment before you attend. The WBS can accept donors with Genetic Haemochromatosis at a minimum donation interval of 2 weeks.



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Medical referral of an individual with Genetic Haemochromatosis (GH) wishing to become a WBS Blood Donor

Patient Name	
Patient Title e.g., Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Dr, Other	
Hospital/Patient Number	
Date of Birth	
Date of last hospital venesection	

I confirm that the above patient:

- has Genetic Haemochromatosis
- does not have significant associated complications including cardiac or hepatic impairment
- is not receiving chelation therapy
- has not had an adverse reaction to venesection in the past
- is not a Jehovah's Witness

Recommended donation frequency

Interval less than 12 weekly	Yes/No	If yes, how often (maximum of 2 weekly)	
12 weekly or more	Yes/No		

I understand that as the individual's medical practitioner I will remain responsible for monitoring their clinical condition including iron status.

I understand that this donor may not be eligible to donate at a WBS session on occasions and may need alternative arrangements for venesection which will remain the responsibility of the referring clinician.

Signature of Referring Doctor or Specialist Nurse	
Print Name	
Hospital/Practice	
Date	



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Welsh Blood Service (WBS) Donor Agreement Form

Name and Title	
Address	
Date of birth	
Donor Number (if known)	
Daytime contact telephone number	

I understand that WBS collects blood for the benefit of patients.

I confirm that management of my Haemochromatosis will continue to be the responsibility of my doctor or hospital consultant.

I understand that in the event I am unable to donate blood regularly for whatever reason, then I will need to inform the doctor who manages my Haemochromatosis.

Knowing all above, I wish to become a WBS blood donor.

Signed	
Date	

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:

Specialist Nurse in Donor Care
Welsh Blood Service
Ely Valley Road
Cardiff
CF72 9WB

Or

Email to: WBS.DonorCareNurses@wales.nhs.uk