

Do you have any concerns around your sexual health after answering these questions?

We are working in partnership with sexual health professionals to promote greater awareness of how to manage your sexual health and wellbeing.

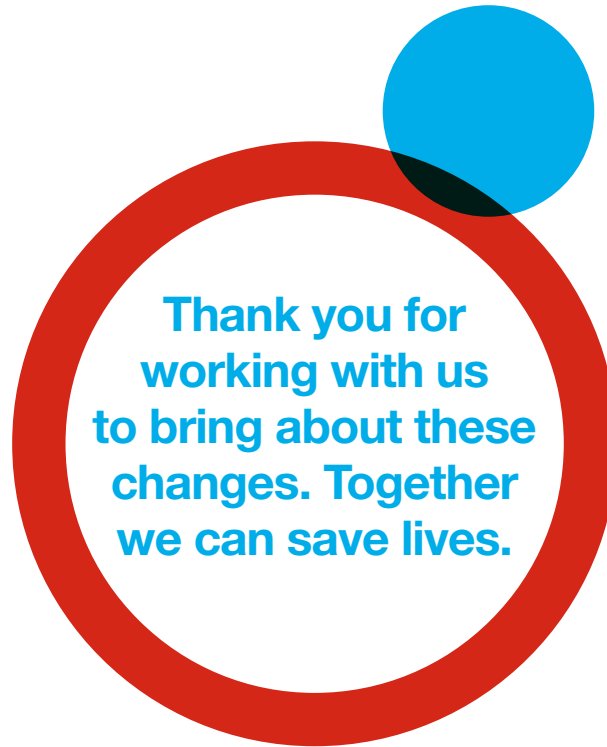
If you are affected by any of the issues raised by this leaflet, or simply want to find out more, the following websites provide more information

- FAIR scotblood.co.uk
- Sexual Health Scotland sexualhealthscotland.co.uk
- NHS Inform nhsinform.scot
- Scotland's Service Directory nhsinform.scot/scotlands-service-directory
- Waveley Care s-x.scot
- Scottish Drugs Forum sdf.org.uk
- Know The Score knowthescore.info
- Hepatitis Scotland hepatitisscotland.org.uk

What will we do with the information you give us?

The information you give us is not linked to any other NHS or clinical records. All our staff are trained in confidentiality, and personal information is kept secure and only shared with other organisations if needed to deliver our service.

We keep a record of all donors, donations and test results. We keep information about donors and donations for at least 30 years. You can find out more including information about your rights by searching 'data protection' at scotblood.co.uk or in our data protection leaflet.



t: 0345 90 90 999 (local rate)
e: nss.snbtSENquiry@nhs.scot
w: scotblood.co.uk

 [givebloodforscotland](https://www.facebook.com/givebloodforscotland)

 [@givebloodscot](https://twitter.com/givebloodscot)

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From Summer 2021, the questions we ask before you give blood will change.

This is because UK blood services are starting to assess eligibility on a person-by-person basis, instead of applying across-the-board restrictions which have previously excluded potential donors.

Using a donor's individual experiences to determine whether that person is safe to donate makes the process fairer for all donors. It also means we will be asking every donor the same questions - regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation.

These changes to the way UK blood services assess the risk of transfusion transmitted infections incorporate the key recommendations of the 2020 FAIR (For the Assessment of Individualised Risk) Report. The recommendations were designed to keep the blood supply safe while making blood donation fairer and more accessible to all.

Effective donor selection is **at least** as important as the tests we perform on every donation and relies on your honesty in answering the questions and considering your own risk of infection. Our tests are very reliable but we cannot test for everything and there is an extremely small chance that we could miss an infection in its early stages. This is why we are asking about recent sexual activity which might mean donors are at higher risk of a new infection. By combining donor questions with state of the art testing we can keep our blood supply as safe as possible. You should never give blood just to receive a test.

FAIR identified several factors associated with a higher risk of blood borne infection, so questions about these have been added into our donor health questionnaire.

So what will these new questions be?

You will be asked whether, over the last three months, you have:

- been diagnosed with or treated for (or had sex with someone who had been diagnosed with or was being treated for) a sexually transmitted disease (excluding chlamydia, genital herpes or genital warts)?
- taken Pre or Post Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV (PrEP or PEP)?
- taken part in chemsex? (chemsex is a specific type of sexual activity where people take certain stimulant drugs to let them have sex for longer and with more people. Drugs associated with chemsex include methamphetamine, mephedrone and GHB).

If you answer 'yes' to any of these questions, you will not be eligible to give blood for up to three months.

You will also be asked whether over the last three months, you have:

- had sex with someone new, or resumed a previous or infrequent sexual relationship?
- had sex with more than one person?

If you answer 'yes' to either (or both) questions, you will then be asked if you had anal sex with any of your sexual partners.

- If you have, you will not be able to donate for up to three months.
- If you haven't had anal sex, you will be able to donate (subject to all other eligibility criteria).

We realise that being asked about specific sexual practices is something you may be unused to or find embarrassing. However, we hope you will understand the need for these questions.

The new questions will all be included in the scotblood.co.uk 'Can I give blood?' quiz. Even if you haven't taken the quiz for some time, we recommend visiting before your next donation.

