

FAQ for blood donors:

Testing new blood bags without Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (DEHP)

This leaflet answers common questions about taking part in validation (checks of new blood bags without Di(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate, also called DEHP).

1. What is DEHP?

DEHP is a substance used to make some plastic soft and bendy. It has been used in many medical items, such as blood bags and tubes.

2. Why are blood bags changing?

Blood services in the UK and across Europe are moving to blood bags without DEHP. This is because rules are changing. The aim is to start using new bags by 01 July 2030, when we will no longer be able to use bags containing DEHP. This means services must plan the move to other options. The main aim is safety. We need to make sure the new bags are safe for donors and patients and maintain the quality of the blood.

3. What does validation mean?

Validation means checking that the new bags work as they should before they are used more widely. This is a safety check. Staff will check that blood collected, processed, stored, and tested in the new bags is safe and suitable for patients.

4. Why do you need blood donors to help?

We need to test the new bags using real blood donations. This helps us make sure the bags are safe and work well before any wider change. These checks are part of a careful safety process.

5. Is it safe for me to take part?

Yes. Your safety remains our first concern. You will give blood as normal and the process should feel no different for you. Trained staff will follow the same safety checks used for all donors.



6. Will the donation feel different?

No. The donation should feel the same as a normal blood donation. The needle, staff checks, and care after donation will be the same.

7. What will happen to my blood?

Your blood will be used for checks as part of the validation study. These checks will look at blood quality, storage, and how well the new bag works. Your donation will not be used for patient care but will provide important information on the safety of the new blood bags.

8. Will my personal details be kept private?

Yes. Your personal details will be handled in line with normal data protection rules.

9. Do I have to take part?

No. Taking part is your choice. You can say no. This will not affect your care or your chance to donate blood in the future.

10. Can I change my mind?

Yes. You can change your mind before you donate. Please tell a member of staff as soon as you can.

11. Will I get paid?

No. Blood donation is voluntary. You will not be paid for taking part.

12. Who can I ask if I have questions?

Please ask a member of staff at the donation session. They can explain the process and help you decide if you want to take part.