

On August 3, the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center will apply new donor eligibility criteria, which will decrease deferrals based upon the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) updated guidance <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/> for blood donation. The changes address our nation's urgent and immediate need for blood and blood components to maintain an adequate blood supply.

The Blood & Platelet Center welcomes these changes, which are based upon scientific data and will allow more individuals the opportunity to save lives through blood donation. We encourage you to review the changes. If you believe you are now eligible to donate, please and call us at (310) 825-0888 ext. 2 to schedule an appointment.

Below we have outlined the new guidance and provided links to each applicable FDA Guidance Document.

### **[Recommendations for Reducing the Risk of HIV Transmission](#)**

The following primary changes from the guidance would now constitute a 3 month deferral rather than a 12 month deferral:

- engaging in sex for money or drugs
- injecting non-prescription drugs
- engaging in sex with anyone who has had sex for money or drugs
- engaging in sex with anyone who has injected non-prescription drugs
- receiving allogeneic transfusions of blood or components
- having contact with someone else's blood through percutaneous inoculation, such as needles stick of contact with open wound/mucous membranes
- receiving a tattoo, ear/body piercing from any entity that is not regulated by the State of California
- having a history of syphilis or gonorrhea (eligible 3 months from completion of treatment)
- for men, having sex with another man
- for women, having sex with a man who had sex with another man within the previous 3 months

### **[Recommendations for Reducing the Risk of Transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease and Variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease \(vCJD\)](#)**

For geographical risk of vCJD (which is related to "mad cow disease"), this change finalizes the drafted guidance put out in January and eliminates the deferral of individuals who spent time on U.S. military bases in Europe. Individuals will still be deferred for possible vCJD risk related to time spent in the UK (cumulative 3 months from 1980-1996) and time spent in France or Ireland (cumulative 5 years from 1980-2001).

### **[Recommendations for Reducing the Risk of Transmission of Malaria](#)**

This change reduces deferral from 12 months to 3 months for travel to a malaria-endemic area. This does not, however, change deferral criteria for those who have lived in an endemic area.

Thank you for donating with the Blood and Platelet Center and supporting UCLA patients. We hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Ward".

Dawn Ward MD  
Medical Director  
UCLA Blood & Platelet Center

**Be a hero. Donate blood.**

