

HEREDITARY HEMOCHROMATOSIS PATIENTS

WHAT IS HEREDITARY HEMOCHROMATOSIS?

Hereditary hemochromatosis (HH) is a disorder that causes the body to absorb too much iron from the diet. The excess iron is stored in the body's tissues and organs, particularly the skin, heart, liver, pancreas, and joints. Because humans cannot increase the excretion of iron, excess iron can overload and eventually damage tissues and organs. For this reason, hereditary hemochromatosis is also called an **iron overload disorder**. (<https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/hereditary-hemochromatosis>)

HOW DO I GET IT?

HH is transmitted genetically from parents to offspring.

CAN I TRANSMIT IT TO OTHERS?

HH cannot be transmitted by blood transfusion, person-to-person physical means.



HOW IS IT TREATED?

HH is treated by removing the excess iron. This is achieved by what is called “Therapeutic Phlebotomy.” You will have 470 mLs or approximately half a liter drawn just as a routine whole blood donor would.

1 blood donation can save up to 3 lives

WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH MY BLOOD?

Your blood will be used for patients who require **life-saving blood transfusions** such as trauma, cancer, and transplant patients.



DO I NEED TO MEET ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS TO DONATE MY BLOOD?

HH patients must qualify as blood donors according to standard donor criteria.

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

Call the Special Donor Office at 310-794-7207 to make an appointment.

1. Have your hematologist complete the attached form and bring to your first appointment.
2. Come to The **UCLA Blood & Platelet Center** at **1045 Gayley Avenue, 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90024.**

For more information on blood donation, visit our website at uclahealth.org/gotblood