

Someone's *life* depends on *YOU*.

Medication deferral list (Question 4)

Please tell us if you are now taking or if you have **EVER** taken any of these medications:

- **Proscar© (Finasteride)** - usually given for prostate gland enlargement.
- **Avodart© (Dutasteride)** - usually given for prostate gland enlargement.
- **Propecia© (Finasteride)** - usually given for baldness.
- **Accutane© (Isotretinoin)** - usually given for severe acne.
- **Amnesteem© (Isotretinoin)** - usually given for severe acne.
- **Claravis© (Isotretinoin)** - usually given for severe acne.
- **Sortret© (Isotretinoin)** - usually given for severe acne.
- **Soriatane© (Acitretin)** - usually given for severe psoriasis.
- **Tegison© (Etretinate)** - usually given for severe psoriasis.
- **Growth hormone from human pituitary glands** – used only until 1985, usually for children with delayed or impaired growth.
- **Insulin from cows (bovine – or beef – insulin)** - used to treat diabetes.
- **Hepatitis B immune globulin** - given following exposure to hepatitis B. NOTE: This is different from the hepatitis B vaccine that is a series of three injections given over a six-month period to prevent future infection from exposures to hepatitis B.
- **Ticlid (ticlopidine HCL) or Plavix (clopidrogel)** - Platelet inhibitor.
- **Feldene (piroxicam)** - given for mild to moderate arthritis pain.

If you would like to know why these medications affect you as a blood donor, please keep reading:

- If you have taken or are taking **Proscar, Avodart, Propecia, Accutane, Amnesteem, Claravis, Sortret, Soriatane, or Tegison** these medications can cause birth defects. Your donated blood could contain high enough levels to damage an unborn baby if transfused to a pregnant woman. Once the medication has been cleared from your blood, you may donate again. Following the last dose, the deferral period is one month for Proscar, Propecia and Accutane; six months for Avodart; and three years for Soriatane. Tegison requires an indefinite deferral.
- **Growth hormone from human pituitary glands** was prescribed until 1985 for children with delayed or impaired growth. The hormone was obtained from human pituitary glands, which are found in the brain. Some people who took this hormone developed a rare nervous system condition called Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD). CJD has not been associated with synthetic growth hormone preparations available since 1985.
- **Insulin from cows (bovine – or beef – insulin)** is injected to treat diabetes. If this insulin was imported into the United States from countries in which “mad cow disease” has been found, it could contain material from infected cattle.
- **Hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG)** is injected to prevent infection following an exposure to hepatitis B. HBIG does not prevent hepatitis B infection in every case; therefore, any one who has received HBIG must wait 12 months to donate blood since hepatitis B can be transmitted through transfusion to a patient.