

## MEDICATION DEFERRAL LIST FOR BLOOD DONATIONS

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

- Proscar® (finasteride)**—usually given for prostate gland enlargement (*1 month deferral*)
- Avodart® (dutasteride)**—usually given for prostate enlargement (*6 month deferral*)
- Propecia® (finasteride)**—usually given for baldness (*1 month deferral*)
- Accutane® (Amnesteem, Claravis, Sotret, isotretinoin)**—usually given for severe acne (*1 month deferral*)
- Soriatane® (acitretin)**—usually given for severe psoriasis (*3 year deferral*)
- Tegison® (etretinate)**—usually given for severe psoriasis (*permanent deferral*)
- Growth Hormone from Human Pituitary Glands**—usually for children with delayed or impaired growth (*permanent deferral*)
- Insulin from cows (bovine or beef insulin)**—used to treat diabetes (*indefinite deferral, if taken since 1980*)
- Hepatitis B Immune Globulin**—given following an exposure to hepatitis B (*1 year deferral*)  
**NOTE:** This is different from the hepatitis B vaccine that is a series of 3 injections given over a 6-month period to prevent future infection from exposure to hepatitis B.
- Unlicensed Vaccine**—usually associated with a research protocol (*1 year deferral*)

### WHY THESE MEDICINES AFFECT YOU AS A BLOOD DONOR

- **Proscar, Avodart, Propecia, Accutane, Soriatane, or Tegison** are medications that can cause birth defects. If transfused to a pregnant woman, your donated blood could contain high enough levels to damage the unborn baby. Once the medication has been cleared from your blood, you may donate again. Following the last dose, the **deferral period is:**  
**1 month** for Proscar, Propecia, and Accutane  
**6 months** for Avodart;  
**3 years** for Soriatane  
**permanent deferral** for Tegison
- **Growth hormone from human pituitary glands** was prescribed 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). The **deferral is permanent**.
- **Insulin from cows (bovine or beef insulin)** is an injected material used to treat diabetes. If this insulin was imported to the U.S. from countries where “Mad Cow Disease” has been found, it could contain material from infected cattle. There is concern that “Mad Cow Disease” is transmitted by transfusion. The **deferral is indefinite**.
- **Hepatitis B Immune Globulin (HBIG)** is an injected material to prevent infection following an exposure to hepatitis B. HBIG does not prevent hepatitis B infection in every case; therefore, persons who have received HBIG **must wait 12 months** to donate blood to be sure they were not infected since hepatitis B can be transmitted through transfusion to a patient.
- **Unlicensed Vaccine** is usually associated with a research protocol and the effect on blood transmission is unknown. **Deferral is one year** unless otherwise indicated by Medical Director.