

PRESS RELEASE

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AIDS - REVISED LEAFLET FOR BLOOD DONORS PUBLISHED

Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health today announced publication of the revised leaflet "AIDS - Important New Advice for Blood Donors" and has asked Regional Health Authorities to ensure that it is distributed individually to all blood donors.

Mr Clarke said: "The new leaflet is more explicit than the previous version. It lists those at risk from AIDS - practising homosexual and bisexual men; drug abusers, both men and women, who inject drugs; and the sexual contacts of people in these groups - and stresses that donors in the risk groups must not give blood as they may unknowingly be carriers of the AIDS virus.

"The leaflet also reassures donors that they cannot contract AIDS or any other disease from giving blood because all the materials used for collecting blood are sterile and are only used once. So donors not in the risk groups can safely, and should, go on giving their blood."

A copy of the revised leaflet is attached.