

**USEFUL ADVICE TO BLOOD DONORS  
FOUND BY CHANCE TO BE HEPATITIS C POSITIVE**

At some time in the past you have been infected by the Hepatitis C virus. Although you may never have suffered from Hepatitis and are now quite well we have to assume (we do not know) that your blood could transmit this condition.

We know that this virus is transmitted by direct blood injection ie blood transfusion, 'dirty needles' used by drug abusers and other occasions such as tattoos, electrolysis etc only if unsterile instruments are used. It can be transmitted by sexual intercourse although the infectivity by this route is low. There is no evidence of risk of transmission associated with ordinary daily contact within your household.

You are advised not to share razors or toothbrushes and observe good rules of domestic hygiene. A condom is advised with new sexual partners. Possible precautions should be discussed with longstanding partners.

You must regretfully never donate blood again or carry an Organ Donor card. You should notify your Doctor or Dentist that you are Hepatitis C antibody positive.

You will have every opportunity to discuss the significance of this situation with either a BTS Doctor or your General Practitioner. In the meanwhile the above information is intended to be helpful and reduce your understandable concern, and the likelihood of infection of others.

Dr **GRO-D** Regional Director

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