



**Stanford
Blood
Center's
Traveler's Club**

vCJD Deferral Information

By recruiting people to donate in your place, you can help prevent the blood shortages that may occur when FDA regulations on travel and residency defer many donors.

- If you have been deferred, or think you might be deferred because of vCJD restrictions, check with a Stanford Blood Center staff member. If you are not eligible to donate, you can join the Traveler's Club.
- Traveler's Club members can stay active in the blood center community by recruiting new donors.
- Members will continue to earn gallon gifts as their recruited donors continue to donate! You can continue where you left off once deferred, as your friend's donations will count towards your gallon gifts as well as their own.
- Each deferred donor and new donor will also receive a Traveler's Club T-shirt.

**Information for donors with
United Kingdom or
Europe Deferrals**

**If you're deferred, join the Club!
Just ask for a pledge card.**



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More information is available about the Food and Drug Administration Guidance on our website:

<http://www-med.stanford.edu/school/bloodcenter>

In May of 2002, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in concert with world health organizations and blood centers implemented revised preventive measures to decrease the possibility of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD; "mad cow" disease) from entering the U.S. blood supply. Additional restrictions will be implemented in October, 2002.

It is important to note that to date, transmission of vCJD by human blood or plasma has not been demonstrated, and no laboratory or epidemiological studies have demonstrated infectivity of blood from vCJD donors. We are providing you with this pamphlet so that you have the most current information about vCJD.

What's the concern about the U.K.?

Variant CJD is an emerging disease for which few studies have been published about how the disease might be transmitted by blood or blood components. In other words, scientists are not sure whether human blood can transmit the vCJD agent. 1980 through 1996 were the peak years of the United Kingdom BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy; "mad cow" disease) epidemic. Since 1996, the U.K. implemented measures designed to keep BSE out of the human food chain.

When blood centers began deferring donors who were in the U.K. for 6 months or more, approximately 87% of donors potentially exposed to BSE were eliminated from the donor pool. The FDA now feels that by implementing the more stringent criterion of **3 months or more** in the U.K. that percentage can be increased to 90%.

Why are France and other European countries now included?

Since the first FDA guidelines were published in 1999, the vCJD and BSE epidemics have continued to evolve. More BSE cases have been reported in Europe. There are two types of risk outside the U.K.: exposure to BSE from infected cows within the country, and exposure to BSE from beef products exported from the U.K. prior to full implementation of food control measures in 1996.

Available data suggest that France imported a substantial amount of beef from the U.K. during the peak years of the BSE epidemic. About 5% of beef consumed in France is estimated to have come from the U.K. Substantial amounts of British beef also were exported to other countries in Europe, although in smaller amounts than to France.

And why are U.S. military bases in some countries included and not others?

The military keeps extensive and highly accurate procurement records, making it possible to identify exactly when British beef was imported for use on each military base. Some U.S. military personnel, civilian military personnel, and their dependents were potentially exposed to British beef procured for military bases between 1980 and 1996. U.S. military bases North of

the Alps received British beef through 1990, and military bases South of the Alps up through 1996.

Due to the potential of exposure to U.K. beef while on bases in Europe, FDA recommends personnel who spent 6 months or more on those bases and during those times outlined be deferred from donating blood.

What's being done in the U.K. and Europe to protect the human food chain?

Control measures include:

- Active surveillance through testing of slaughtered cattle over 30 months old
- Exclusion of high-risk material from human food
- A ban on human consumption of cattle more than 30 months old
- Prohibition of mechanically recovered meat
- A ban on mammalian-derived feed for cattle, sheep and other ruminants
- Herd control and ongoing surveillance

Will the rules ever be changed to allow me to donate?

Tests are being developed to detect CJD and vCJD infections in blood and plasma donors. However, until suitable donor screening tests are available, FDA will continue to recommend all preventive measures currently in effect. As additional scientific information becomes available, FDA may update their recommendations.

Even though these restrictions represent the most careful consideration of current knowledge and advice from medical experts, the FDA, along with blood centers and health care providers across the country, is very concerned how these recommendations might impact the supply of blood available for patients in need.

When do the restrictions become effective?

May, 2002

Deferral of donors who were in the U.K. for 3 months or more from 1980 – 1996; who received a blood transfusion in the U.K. since 1980; who were in France for 5 years or more since 1980; and military personnel, civilian military employees or their dependents stationed in certain European countries for 6 months or more from 1980 through 1996. Please see a blood center staff person for a list of affected countries.

October, 2002

In addition to the May restrictions, donors who spent 5 years or more in Europe (please see a blood center staff person for a list of affected countries) will also be deferred from donating.