

Donor Health and Safety Testing

Before potential donors can donate blood or bone marrow for transplant, they go through testing to make sure donating is safe for them and for you.

This fact sheet tells you:

- The tests and surveys that all donors must do
- The information you may learn about a potential donor
- Resources if you have questions

Health and safety tests

To protect you and your donor, all potential donors must complete:

1. A health history survey
2. A physical exam
3. Blood tests

These health and safety tests help doctors look for certain risk factors. A risk factor is something that can increase your chance of getting an infection or disease.

1. Health history survey

These questions help doctors find out if a potential donor is at risk for certain infections. Questions potential donors are asked about include:

- Past medical history
- Recent travel
- Recent tattoos

2. Physical exam

Doctors check the potential donor's blood pressure, temperature, breathing and heart rate. They also do a thorough exam from head to toe. This helps them find possible risk factors.

3. Blood tests

Potential donors have their blood tested for these infections:

- Chagas
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Human T-Lymphotropic Virus (HTLV)
- Syphilis
- West Nile Virus

If a potential donor has risk factors or their blood test shows signs of infection, they may still be able to donate. Your transplant doctor will talk with you about these results.

Keep in mind

- The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) says which infectious disease every potential donor must be tested for.
- NMDPSM only lets people donate if their results show that donating is safe for both you and the donor.
- You won't know all of the results of your donor's testing. This helps to protect your donor's privacy.

Resources for you

If you have questions about your donor and your health, talk to your transplant doctor.

If you have questions about how a donor search happens, you can contact the NMDP Patient Support Center:

- Call or Text: 1 (888) 999-6743
- Email: patientinfo@nmdp.org