



Northern California Community Blood Bank

A Non-Profit Corporation Serving Humboldt and Del Norte Counties Since 1951

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www.nccbb.org

Dear «First_Name»,

11/13/06

On behalf of the Northern California Community Blood Bank we would like to thank you for being a platelet and plasma donor and we hope that you will consider continuing to give "The Gift of Life" by donating whole blood.

As you know, the safety and health of our donors and the safety of the blood supply drives the decisions made by the Northern California Community Blood Bank regarding donor eligibility. For this reason, commencing this week NCCBB will only be able to accept platelet and plasma donations from male donors except in cases of extreme shortage.

The force behind this decision is Transfusion Related Acute Lung Injury (TRALI). This uncommon and previously undiagnosed condition has been studied by medical experts in recent years. Studies have revealed that TRALI is associated with certain antibodies to human leukocyte antigen (HLA) and/or neutrophil specific antigen (HNA). These antibodies interact with proteins on patients' cells and potentially cause a significant reaction in the patient. These antibodies are found more often in female plasma than in male plasma. For more information on TRALI please see our website at <http://www.nccbb.org/TRALI.htm>.

Currently, screening tests for these antibodies are not available on a commercial basis. Hopefully in the near future, newer technology and improved tests will make screening possible and thus make it possible for female donors such as you to again donate platelets. At the present time, NCCBB encourages you to continue your tremendous generosity by your donation of whole blood on a regular basis and to be available for platelet and plasma donations in, hopefully rare, emergencies.

We will be calling you soon to see if there is anything that our staff can do or any questions that we can answer for you.

Thank you again for your generosity,

John Gullam M.A.
Director, Donor Resources

Margaret Ann Gordon M.D.
Medical Director

1. ABC Blood Bulletin V.8n.2 7/06
2. Susan E. Lenahan, etal. Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2001;125:523-5

A Member of:



Good Deeds Speak For Themselves



California Blood Bank Society