



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

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 no longer be able to accept platelet and plasma donations from female donors and we hope that you can help us address this rather urgent issue by becoming a regular platelet or plasma donor.

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 future, newer technology and improved tests will make screening possible and thus make it possible for female donors to again donate plasma.

For now, NCCBB must increase the number of male donations to fill the need for platelets and plasma. We call upon you to help in this matter. Please let us know if we can schedule you for a platelet or plasma donation and please tell everyone you know about this situation. The best way NCCBB can meet the needs of its patients is by increasing the donor base with the help of generous and caring individuals like you.

We hope that you will continue your tremendous generosity by giving The Gift of Life donating whole blood and consider a platelets or plasma donation.

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

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