



If you are however still not convinced about the safety of the general blood supply, the following alternatives are available to you:

#### Autologous Donation

If you are having planned surgery and a blood transfusion is anticipated you may donate your own blood for use during surgery.

#### Designated Donation

If you are having planned surgery but are not healthy enough to withstand a blood donation you may choose friends and/or family to donate for you. Requirements must be met.

#### Intra-operative Collection

Your blood which is lost during surgery, is saved and transfused back to you.

#### Erythropoietin

Erythropoietin is a bone marrow stimulant used to treat specific types of anaemia such as that caused by kidney failure.



## Contact Details:

If you have any questions about blood safety, please do not hesitate to contact our Medical Officer.



#### Telephone numbers

Main Switchboard 021 507 6300  
Medical Officer 021 507 6329



#### E-mail

info@wpbts.org.za



#### Website

www.wpblood.org.za



#### Head Office Address

Western Province Blood Transfusion Service  
Old Mill Road, Pinelands, 7405, Cape Town  
PO Box 79, Howard Place, 7450



#### Facebook

Like us on WP Blood



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#### Information for Clinicians

The blood transfusion services in South Africa promotes effective transfusion practice to clinicians and has compiled the **Clinical Guidelines for the Use of Blood Products** to encourage appropriate use. Please contact WPBTS Marketing Department on **021 507 6326** for further information.

ALL ABOUT



# BLOOD SAFETY

## Receiving Something Remarkable!



PBR03 (01 Aug 12)



**WP Blood Transfusion Service**  
Do something remarkable



**WP Blood Transfusion Service**  
Do something remarkable



# SAFE BLOOD

Something truly remarkable



*Were you or a loved one recently at the receiving end of a blood transfusion? Or are you a prospective recipient of a blood product and would like to know more about blood safety?*

Blood is what keeps us alive. Since it cannot be artificially reproduced, the only way to obtain it is through the voluntary aid of remarkable blood donors.

**Every year, we collect more than 145 000 units of blood in order to save and enhance the lives of more than 435 000 patients.**

It is reassuring that blood transfusions in South Africa remain low risk despite the high incidence of HIV and Hepatitis B amongst the general population.

This is achieved by the continuous efforts of our organisation to provide the safest blood products and comprehensive service to all communities of the Western Cape.

**Our quality management system ensures consistently high standards of service which ultimately benefits both blood donors and blood product recipients.**

**But how exactly do we ensure a safe blood supply?**



## Donor Selection

We maintain a donor base of healthy, non-remunerated donors who donate on a regular basis. This has proven to be the safest source of a low risk blood supply. They are all volunteers - their only reward is their remarkable gift of saving lives.

## Donor Education

In order to maintain a healthy donor base, we educate donors on issues of blood safety, donor health and healthy lifestyle choices.

## Pre-donation Screening

Donors are subject to strict health and lifestyle criteria and must complete a detailed questionnaire prior to every donation. They are made aware of the fact that false or inaccurate information could jeopardise the lives of recipients and themselves.

## Donor Exclusion

Donors who realise they may not have answered the questionnaire truthfully or that their donation may be unsafe may call the WPBTS Medical Officer directly (see contact details on back) to have their donation withdrawn from the blood supply. The privacy of donors is maintained by using a barcode and donor code system.

“ Every single donation is tested for HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B and C and has the blood group confirmed ”

All results must be negative before a unit of blood is labelled and released to our blood banks. Positive blood units are removed, quarantined and incinerated.

## Sterilisation of Blood Products

Certain plasma products are sterilised to inactivate potential residual viruses so that they cannot transmit HIV or Hepatitis B and C.

**We use Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT). This DNA-based technology effectively reduces the window period for the detection of HIV to just a few days.**

