



**American
Red Cross**



INFORMATION SHEET: REDS-IV-P DONOR SURVEY

What is REDS-IV-P?

The American Red Cross Connecticut Blood Services Region is participating in a collaborative national research study on volunteer blood donors and transfusion recipients in the United States. This program, funded by the National Institutes of Health, is called *REDS*, signifying *Recipient Epidemiology and Donor Evaluation Study*. The purpose of REDS is to advance public health by conducting research that improves transfusion practices and the safety and adequacy of the blood supply in the United States. This includes monitoring the blood supply to detect any emerging diseases and determining ways to encourage more eligible people to give blood.

REDS-IV-P builds on earlier REDS studies with an additional focus on children and pregnant women who need transfusions. The data compiled in REDS-IV-P will allow investigators to rapidly address key research questions in transfusion medicine and inform blood policy decisions, for adults as well as for children and other understudied patient populations.

What is the REDS-IV-P Donor Survey?

As part of the research conducted by REDS and by the Connecticut Blood Services Region, we ask that all blood donors provide us with information additional to your regular health history. Your participation is optional and you may decline to complete the survey and still donate blood today.

The information you provide will be used to study the impact of donor country of birth, race, dietary supplements, and history of smoking, pregnancy and blood transfusion on safety outcomes such as donor infectious disease markers, blood recipient clinical outcomes and adverse events, blood donor reactions, and blood donor deferral. The survey will also be used to help understand how we can improve blood availability such as by recruitment of new blood donors and increased return donations by repeat donors.

What are the benefits and risks to participation?

You may benefit from knowing that you have helped the Red Cross to improve the safety and availability of the United States' blood supply. There is no additional risk to you beyond that of having donated blood.

Is there compensation for participation? There will be no payment to you for participation in this study.

Is there a cost to participation? There is no cost to participate.

Will my information be kept confidential?

The information you provide will be entered into a confidential database maintained by authorized research staff of the American Red Cross. The data collected will be shared with research colleagues in the REDS program for data analysis, but **your personal identifying information will remain unknown to anyone outside of authorized American Red Cross staff and you will not be identified in any publications from this study.**

If you choose to participate in the study:

- Please answer the questions on the **REDS-IV-P Donor Survey**. If you have any questions, please ask the health historian, who can either answer them or refer you to research staff.
- If you prefer not to answer a particular question, please leave it blank and move on to the next question.
- Answering some or all of the questions on the **REDS-IV-P Donor Survey** will indicate your consent for participation in this research.

We ask that this information be provided **each time** you present for donation, even if none of the information has changed.

If you choose not to participate in the study:

- Your participation is voluntary. If you choose not to participate, do not complete the **REDS-IV-P Donor Survey**. Your decision not to participate will not affect your blood donation or your relationship with Red Cross.

If you have further questions or would like to withdraw from the study:

If you have any questions, please contact the Connecticut Research Office at (866) 715-3284. You may also withdraw from the study without harm to your relationship with the American Red Cross by contacting the Connecticut Research Office within a month of your blood donation.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant in research or if you feel that you have been harmed because of the research use of your information, contact the American Red Cross Institutional Review Board Administrator at (877) 738-0856.