

## **Give Someone Another Summer - Don't Forget to Donate Blood in Manchester**

NHS Blood and Transplant is reminding donors in Manchester to give blood throughout the summer to help those who need it most.

Regular donations are vital because stocks are more vulnerable at this time of year. People get distracted by holidays, sporting events and the warmer weather, and stocks can fall.

Only around 39% of appointments at Manchester Norfolk House Donor Centre and 28% of appointments at Manchester Plymouth Grove Donor Centre are currently full over the next six weeks. NHS Blood and Transplant is now asking people to make an appointment to give blood in Manchester over the next few weeks. Each donation can save the lives of up to three people.

Donations are needed throughout the year because NHS Blood and Transplant cannot stockpile blood. It can only be stored for 35 days. Hospitals in Manchester rely on blood being available 365 days a year.

The blood you donate is used to treat critically ill patients, whether they have had cancer, a blood disorder, been in an accident, or if they lost blood in surgery or childbirth.

Jon Latham, Assistant Director of Donor Relationship Services at NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "We really need our loyal donors in Manchester over the summer because while stocks can dip, hospital patients need blood all year round.

"If you can make and keep an appointment you will be doing an incredibly important thing – helping us to save and improve lives. So it is important to keep your appointment if you can or change it as soon as possible. The cancelled slot can then be reallocated to someone else."

He added: “Nationally, we need 135,000 new donors each year to replace those who can no longer donate for reasons such as ill health, pregnancy or foreign travel, and to ensure we have the right mix of blood groups to match patient needs in the future.”

- Make and keep your appointment to donate at either Manchester Norfolk House Donor Centre, Brown Street, Manchester, M2 1DA or Manchester Plymouth Grove Donor Centre, Plymouth Grove, Manchester, M13 9LL by using the NHSGiveBlood app, by calling the Donor Line on 0300 123 23 23, or visiting [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)

## Notes

- NHS Blood and Transplant is a joint England and Wales Special Health Authority. We provide the blood donation service for England and the organ donation service for the UK. We also provide donated tissues, stem cells and cord blood. We are an essential part of the NHS, saving and improving lives through public donation.
- It is quick and easy to book an appointment to give blood. Call 0300 123 23 23 or visit [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)
- NHSBT has 23 permanent donor centres in London (Tooting, Edgware, West End) Manchester (Plymouth Grove and Norfolk House), Cambridge, Luton, Nottingham, Sheffield, Leicester, Bradford, Leeds, Newcastle, Lancaster, Liverpool, Stoke, Birmingham, Bristol, Gloucester, Oxford, Southampton, Poole and Plymouth. Our mobile teams also collect blood at community venues such as church halls around the country.
- NHS Blood and Transplant needs to collect 1.4 million units of blood each year to meet the needs of patients across England.
- There are four main blood groups – O, A, B and AB. O negative (the universal blood group) and B negative are particularly vulnerable to shortfalls. So, we want people with those blood groups to donate as regularly as they can.
- The overall demand for blood is falling by 3-4% per year due to improvements in clinical practice and our work with hospitals to ensure blood is used appropriately for patients.

- We need 135,000 new blood donors each year to replace those who stop donating and to ensure we have the right mix of blood groups to match patient needs in the future
- We urgently need more black donors as they are more likely to have the blood type needed to treat the increasing number of patients suffering from sickle cell disease.
- There is an urgent need for donors with Ro blood. Only 2% of our donors have Ro type blood. Collecting enough is a constant challenge. Ro is often used to save people with the rare blood disorder, sickle cell disease. Ro blood is ten times more common in black people than in white people.