

## **Press Release**

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### **Cascade Regional Blood Services Announces Change and Easing of Cancer Deferrals**

Have you (or someone you know) been deferred for [blood donation](#) due to a cancer diagnosis or treatment? Are you still interested in donating blood? Please read on - we have some good news!

Chemotherapy and radiation therapy are no longer reasons for deferral from blood donation.

If you have been deferred indefinitely for a cancer diagnosis or treatment, you may be eligible for re-entry as a blood donor. A recent change in our cancer deferral policy will help us re-admit many donors who have been deferred in the past. The following information will help you understand if you are eligible to donate again:

- Donors with a history of prostate cancer, melanoma (unless it is in situ or localized), Leukemia, Lymphoma, Multiple Myeloma will remain indefinitely deferred at this time.
- Donors with superficial skin cancers including basal cell, epithelial and squamous cell, are acceptable once the area of removal has healed.
- Donors with melanoma that has been removed and found to be in situ (localized) may donate once the area of removal has healed, but a note from your personal physician stating that the melanoma was in situ (localized) must be on file prior to donation.
- In situ (localized) cervical cancer is not a reason for deferral, but patient must be released from doctor's care.
- All other cancers are acceptable five years after diagnosis if the cancer has not recurred or metastasized since original treatment.

If you have been deferred indefinitely, please contact us to initiate your re-entry. This process can take from one to two weeks. Call us with questions: 253-383-2553.

Cascade Regional Blood Services provides a constant, safe, cost effective supply of blood and blood components to the communities it serves.