

A⁺A⁻B⁺B⁻AB⁺AB⁻O⁺O⁻A⁺A⁻B⁺B⁻AB⁺AB⁻O⁺O⁻

So how do I access this free Haemochromatosis Clinic service?

If you would like to come to the IBTS clinic, ask your doctor or clinic nurse if they think it would suit you – Information is available for doctors and clinic nurses on www.giveblood.ie

If they think that you are suitable to come to us, make sure that they give you a signed IBTS prescription form (renewed every 12 months by your doctor or clinic nurse), which will state the number of phlebotomies for us to perform over a 12 month period. You will need this form to have the treatment done by the IBTS:

No Prescription Form - No Treatment

Dublin Clinic:

Phone 01 474 5000 to make an appointment.
D'Olier Street Clinic, Dublin. 2nd Floor,
Lafayette House, 1-5 D'Olier Street.
Every Wed 10:00 - 12.00 hrs

Cork Clinic:

Phone 021 480 7400 to make an appointment.
Munster Regional Transfusion Centre
St. Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, Cork
Every Monday from 12.30 - 14.30 hrs

Remember to rebook your next appointment when you attend the clinic!

Why is the IBTS introducing this free service for people with haemochromatosis?

- It is illegal to offer a financial incentive to blood donors in Ireland - this helps maintain the safety of blood transfusions. Free phlebotomy treatments could act as financial inducements to blood donation for people who need phlebotomy, but who don't have access to free treatment. So we are providing free phlebotomy treatment for people with haemochromatosis, *whether they are willing or eligible to be blood donors or not*, to address this.
- It offers people with haemochromatosis the opportunity to be blood donors
- The IBTS is good at taking large volumes of blood from people. We do it more efficiently and at a lower cost to the public than anyone else.
- There will be no charge, irrespective of medical card entitlement or health insurance. IBTS will not charge insurance companies for this service.

 **elp us
elp you... It makes sense**

Haemochromatosis Clinic

Free* Phlebotomy service

◆ **Dublin Haemochromatosis Clinic:**
D'Olier Street Clinic, Dublin. 2nd Floor,
Lafayette House, 1-5 D'Olier Street.

Open every Wed 10:00 - 12.00 hrs.
By Appointment only (tel: 01 474 5000)

◆ **Cork Haemochromatosis Clinic:**
Munster Regional Transfusion Centre
St. Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, Cork

Open every Monday from 12.30 - 14.30 hrs
By Appointment only (tel: 021 4807400)

- ◆ To avail of this free service, patients must have a medical prescription
- ◆ You decide if you would like to be a blood donor
- ◆ For more information call 01 474 5000 or visit giveblood.ie

 **elp us
elp you**

giveblood.ie

* The service is free but some health based eligibility criteria applies

What is Haemochromatosis?

Hereditary Haemochromatosis is the most common inherited condition in Ireland: about 1 in 100 people have it. If you do have it, your body absorbs too much iron from your diet. Once diagnosed, it's treated by removing blood regularly to get rid of the excess iron

To use the IBTS Haemochromatosis clinic you will need:

- A definite diagnosis of hereditary haemochromatosis by your family doctor (GP) or hospital consultant. This means you have had a positive genetic test for haemochromatosis at some point
- To be over 18 years of age; (there is no upper age limit)
- To be normally resident in the Republic of Ireland
- A prescription from your GP or clinic nurse for the phlebotomies, written on the official IBTS prescription form (available on www.giveblood.ie) and signed by your doctor or clinic nurse

No Prescription Form - No Treatment

- To be fit enough to have your phlebotomy performed outside of a hospital clinic – no serious heart or lung diseases, history of recent strokes etc. You must not be under the care of a doctor or clinic for any other condition or disease apart from haemochromatosis except for stable and fairly straightforward conditions e.g. uncomplicated high blood pressure well controlled by treatment, diabetes being treated adequately by diet alone, simple skin disorders or similar. If in doubt call us on 01 474 5000 (Dublin) or 021 4807400 (Cork).
- Adequate veins in your arms to have the phlebotomy done with our standard pack – unfortunately we will be unable to accommodate people with poor veins at the clinic for the time being
- To be able to tolerate a standard 470 ml (about one pint) phlebotomy. If you can't, we will ask your own doctor to continue to provide your phlebotomies
- Never to have tested positive for HIV, hepatitis C or hepatitis B
- Not to be a current intravenous drug user
- Not to be a current sex-worker

Will my blood be used for transfusion?

If you want to be a blood donor, and if you are eligible per normal donor criteria, we will arrange for you to attend future appointments after your first visit, at a blood donor clinic in Dublin or Cork.

At a later date, we will be able to arrange appointments for blood donor clinics in other towns and cities, but for the time being we are limited to Dublin and Cork. You don't have to live in these cities, but you'll have to be prepared to travel to these clinics.

For your first visit to the IBTS we will discard the blood we take, whether you are eligible as a blood donor or not.

What happens if I don't want to be even considered as a potential blood donor?

No problem – we are happy to provide the service for people whether they want to be blood donors or not. Of course, we want as many people as possible to be blood donors, but blood donation doesn't suit everyone. You can still receive clinic treatment once you meet the eligibility conditions listed.