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Donor Selection Criteria

Who can donate?

- Healthy lactating women delivering an infant within the past 12 months
- Medications acceptable to use: insulin, thyroid replacement hormone, nasal sprays, asthma inhalers, topical treatments, eye drops, progestin-only birth control products, and low-dose estrogen birth control products.
- Donors must NOT be users of nicotine products

Screening procedure:

- Potential donors are screened verbally and in writing and given educational materials informing them of the characteristics of high-risk groups or activities that might put them at risk for transmitting blood-borne diseases.
- Serological test: HIV-1, HIV-2, HTLV-1, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B surface antigen, and syphilis no more than 6 months prior to the first donation.

Exclusion Criteria

- Receipt of a blood transfusion or blood products, except Rhogam®, within the last 4 months
- Receipt of an organ or tissue transplant within the last 12 months
- Ears or other body parts pierced with other than single-use instruments, tattooing, permanent makeup applied by needle, or an accidental stick with a contaminated needle within the last 12 months
- Regular use of over-the-counter medications or systemic prescriptions, including mega dose vitamins and/or herbal products
- Total vegetarians (vegans) who do not supplement their diet with vitamins
- Use of illegal drugs
- History of chronic infections such as HIV, HTLV, malaria, active TB, Hepatitis B or C, cancer other than non-melanoma skin cancer or cervical cancer in situ
- In the last 12 months had a sexual partner who in the last 12 months has had tattoos, permanent makeup applied with needles, ear or other body parts pierced, or been stuck with a contaminated needle
- Ever received human pituitary-derived growth hormone, dura mater (or brain covering) graft, bovine insulin, or had a family history of Creutzfeldt-Jakob (Mad cow) disease
- Since 1980 spent time that adds up a total of 5 years in Europe (includes Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)
- Born, lived in, traveled to, or sexual contact with someone in any African country since 1977
- Incarceration or incarceration of sexual partner for more than 72 consecutive hours in the last 12 months