



BLUTSPENDE SRK SCHWEIZ
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Blood donation: uniform donation criteria for all

Swissmedic has approved the application submitted by Swiss Transfusion SRC. This means that the blood donation criteria will be applied uniformly to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation. The new donation criteria will be implemented throughout Switzerland as of November 1, 2023.

Blood Donor SKR Switzerland is pleased to announce that its application has been approved by Swissmedic, the national authorisation and supervisory authority for drugs and medical products, on July 24, 2023, and that the standardization of blood donation criteria for all individuals can be implemented. The regulation in place since 2017 with a waiting period of 12 months since the last sexual contact between men (MSM) will thus become obsolete.

The new regulation is based on an updated risk assessment that Swiss Transfusion SRC has developed together with a group of experts over the last two years.

For the practical implementation (adaptation of the processes, the questionnaires, training of the employees in the regional blood donation centers, etc.), Swiss Transfusion SRC and the regional blood donation services need three months. The adjustments must be documented and trained in accordance with the GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) specifications that are binding for pharmaceuticals. After that, the new donation criteria will be applied throughout Switzerland as of November 1, 2023.

As an additional benefit, better comprehensibility of blood donors can be expected due to the uniform donation criteria. In addition, the elimination of the current MSM question simplifies handling for staff and blood donors.

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Swiss Transfusion SRC, together with the regional blood transfusion services, secures the blood supply in Switzerland. Swiss Blood Stem Cells (SBSC), a department within Swiss Transfusion SRC, manages the Swiss registry of blood stem cell donors, recruits donors in Switzerland and facilitates blood stem cell donations in Switzerland for patients in this country and abroad. This [documentation](#) provides an overview of Swiss Transfusion SRC, its role and tasks.

