

NEWS RELEASE

Central California Blood Center

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September 23, 2026

Central California Blood Center Expands Blood Donation Eligibility for Certain Cancer Survivors

FRESNO, Calif. — Central California Blood Center Central California Blood Center (CCBC) announced today that many individuals who have completed treatment for certain cancers and were previously unable to donate blood may now be eligible to donate under updated donor eligibility requirements.

The updated requirements are in accordance with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines and follow extensive collection, validation and analysis by CCBC. Based on this review, a lengthy deferral is no longer necessary for donors who have completed treatment for certain cancers, including organ cancers and melanoma.

Under the updated requirements, individuals previously deferred for cancer may now be eligible as outlined below, provided they meet all other donor eligibility requirements.

- **Melanoma/Malignant Skin Cancer:** Deferral reduced from five years to one year. The one-year period begins on the date of removal or, when applicable, the date of last treatment.
- **Other Cancers/Malignancies (e.g. breast, lung or colon cancer):** Deferral reduced from five years to one year. The one-year period begins on the date of last treatment.

“This important update allows many cancer survivors who are healthy and cancer-free an opportunity to return to blood donation and help save lives in their communities,” said Christine Hayes, President and CEO of Central California Blood Center. “We are grateful to the individuals who want to give back through blood donation, and we are pleased to provide an opportunity for more cancer survivors to become donors again.”

Donors diagnosed with hematologic cancers, which affect the blood cells, bone marrow or lymphatic system, will remain permanently ineligible to donate blood out of an abundance of caution. In addition, certain medications used in cancer treatment may still result in a donor deferral, and donors must meet all other applicable health and eligibility requirements.

CCBC is licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which provides federal oversight of the collection and use of blood products in the United States. The FDA allows individual blood centers to determine donor eligibility following cancer treatment based on the medical director's assessment.

To schedule an appointment or for more eligibility information, please visit www.donateblood.org or call 559-389-5433.

About The Central California Blood Center

*The Central California Blood Center serves as the region's vital source of lifesaving blood products, supporting 20 hospitals and healthcare partners throughout Fresno, Tulare, Madera, Kings, and Mariposa counties. Each day, hundreds of local patients depend on blood transfusions for emergency care, surgical procedures, and ongoing medical treatments. In critical moments, the blood readily available on our shelves can make all the difference. By donating, community members provide more than blood—they offer hope, healing, and a second chance to neighbors, friends, and families across the Central Valley. For more information, visit **www.donateblood.org** or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn for updates, donor stories, and opportunities to get involved.*

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