

Medication deferral list for donating blood

Wait periods for whole blood, plasma, and platelet donation, grouped by how long each drug defers a donor. Donors should never stop a prescribed medication in order to donate.

Permanent deferrals

These three entries are the only permanent medication deferrals on the current list. Every other drug below has a finite wait period.

DRUG NAME (BRAND / GENERIC)	USED FOR	DEFERRAL	WHY
Tegison <i>etretinate</i>	Psoriasis (retinoid)	Permanent — no donation, ever	Stored in fat and detectable in blood for years after the last dose.
Any antiretroviral therapy (ART) <i>HIV treatment</i>	Antiretroviral	Permanent — no donation, ever	Signals an HIV diagnosis, which is itself a permanent deferral.
Any experimental drug or vaccine <i>unapproved / trial product</i>	Investigational	As defined by the medical director	Safety for transfusion recipients has not been established.

The most common screening error: isotretinoin (Accutane), finasteride (Propecia, Proscar), and thalidomide (Thalomid) are **1-month** deferrals, not permanent ones. Only etretinate (Tegison) is a permanent retinoid deferral.

Temporary deferrals, shortest wait to longest

Wait periods run from the last dose. Sorted by length so a coordinator can read the clock straight off the row.

DRUG NAME (BRAND / GENERIC)	USED FOR	WAIT AFTER LAST DOSE	DONATION TYPES AFFECTED
Feldene <i>piroxicam</i>	Antiplatelet	2 days	Platelets
Effient <i>prasugrel</i>	Antiplatelet	3 days	Platelets
Brilinta <i>ticagrelor</i>	Antiplatelet	7 days	Platelets
Plavix <i>clopidogrel</i>	Antiplatelet	14 days	Platelets
Ticlid, Zontivity <i>ticlopidine, vorapaxar</i>	Antiplatelet	1 month	Platelets
Aspirin and aspirin-containing products <i>acetylsalicylic acid</i>	Antiplatelet	2 days	Platelets only — whole blood unaffected
Advil, Motrin, Aleve <i>ibuprofen, naproxen</i>	NSAID	2 days	Platelets only — whole blood unaffected
Arixtra, Eliquis, Fragmin, Lovenox, Pradaxa, Savaysa, Xarelto <i>fondaparinux, apixaban, dalteparin, enoxaparin, dabigatran, edoxaban, rivaroxaban</i>	Anticoagulant	2 days	All
Coumadin, Jantoven, Warfilone; heparin <i>warfarin; heparin</i>	Anticoagulant	7 days	All
Accutane, Absorica, Amnesteem, Claravis, Myorisan, Sotret, Zenatane <i>isotretinoin</i>	Acne (retinoid)	1 month	All
Propecia, Proscar <i>finasteride</i>	Hair loss / prostate	1 month	All
Thalomid, Revlimid <i>thalidomide, lenalidomide</i>	Multiple myeloma	1 month	All
Rinvoq <i>upadacitinib</i>	Rheumatoid arthritis	1 month	All

DRUG NAME (BRAND / GENERIC)	USED FOR	WAIT AFTER LAST DOSE	DONATION TYPES AFFECTED
Cellcept <i>mycophenolate mofetil</i>	Immunosuppressant	6 weeks	All
Avodart, Jalyn <i>dutasteride</i>	Prostate symptoms	6 months	All
HBIG <i>hepatitis B immune globulin</i>	Post-exposure prophylaxis	3 months	All
Truvada, Descovy <i>oral PrEP or PEP for HIV</i>	HIV prevention	3 months	All
Erivedge, Odomzo <i>vismodegib, sonidegib</i>	Basal cell skin cancer	2 years	All
Aubagio, Arava <i>teriflunomide, leflunomide</i>	Multiple sclerosis / RA	2 years	All
Apretude, Yeztugo <i>cabotegravir, lenacapavir</i>	Injectable HIV prevention	2 years	All
Soriatane <i>acitretin</i>	Psoriasis (retinoid)	3 years	All

Medications that do not defer a donor

Most prescriptions cause no deferral at all. Use this column to reassure donors during screening.

- ✓ Antidepressants — sertraline, paroxetine, fluoxetine, bupropion

✓ Blood pressure medications — lisinopril, metoprolol, amlodipine

✓ Statins — atorvastatin, simvastatin

✓ Acetaminophen (Tylenol)

✓ Oral contraceptives and hormonal birth control
- ✓ Thyroid medication — levothyroxine

✓ Diabetes medications — metformin, insulin, GLP-1 agonists such as semaglutide

✓ ADHD stimulants — Adderall, methylphenidate

✓ Proton pump inhibitors — omeprazole

✓ Most antihistamines, inhalers, and topical treatments

A deferral can come from the **condition** rather than the drug. An anticoagulant prescribed for an active clot, or an antibiotic taken for an unresolved infection, defers the donor on the condition alone. Screen for both.

Donor medication screening log

Complete one row per medication reported at intake. Record the date the temporary deferral expires so the donor can be invited back.

DONOR NAME / ID	SCREEN DATE	MEDICATION REPORTED	LAST DOSE	DEFERRAL TYPE	WAIT PERIOD	ELIGIBLE ON	SCREENED BY

Before you defer or clear a donor: confirm the wait period against your own center's current standard operating procedure. Blood centers may apply stricter criteria than the shared list, and the list is revised as FDA and AABB guidance changes.