



## Content of Attach C – Information on infectious disease transmission

(V3 1/1 nov. 2004)

This document is not intended in substitution Attach C but as a possible support. **It is reminded that under Italian current legislation the potential blood stem cell donor must be able to understand (including forms) and communicate in Italian.**

### TO POTENTIAL DONORS OF HAEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELLS

Dear readers,

Thank you for taking the time to reading this document. It has been written in order to provide some information about the allogeneic donation of haematopoietic stem cells (HSC) and the related risks, which mainly concern the recipient.

We invite you therefore to read the present paper carefully and calmly. The donation, which is anonymous, voluntary and unpaid, is a generous act of profound human significance, **so if you have even one doubt** that you might be able to inflict harm on the recipient, you should avoid from registering as potential donor. The interview with the health professional or doctor, bound by **strict professional confidentiality**, may help you to clarify, by assessing together, potential exposures you may have had to infectious agents.

Thank you in advance on behalf of who will receive your gift. To help you in this reflection we remind you, by law, that with your altruistic act there is a risk of transmitting infectious diseases caused by viruses (in particular hepatitis and AIDS).

There are some habits, some of which are connected with sexual activity, which expose one to a higher risk of contracting these infections and therefore to transmitting them. As laboratory tests are not always able to identify individuals that have been recently infected, it is necessary to exclude those from donating who may have been exposed to these risks. The examples listed below are a starting point for you to reflect on behaviour or actions which are not normally considered abnormal, but in a potential donor they may become a criteria for exclusion for a certain period of time.

- ✓ Having taken drugs intravenously;
- ✓ Sexual intercourses with strangers or in promiscuous conditions. An unprotected sexual act is, in fact, an open door for the transmission of various infectious agents, of which the most insidious are those mentioned above (hepatitis B, hepatitis C, AIDS). Casual sex or sex with strangers, whose habits you may not know about, puts at risk not only your health but also that of the recipient.
- ✓ Medical investigations or invasive medical treatments that are often considered routine and not related to certain infectious diseases, such as an endoscopic check-up (gastroscopy, recto-colonoscopy, arthroscopy, cystoscopy) or those where an arterial or venous catheter is used, such as coronary angiography or angiography.

Please note however, that by donating there are no risks for the donor of contracting these infections since sterile equipment is used for each collection which is then discarded after use.

**On behalf of all the patients who are awaiting a transplant, thank you for the sensitivity that you have shown and for having understood the great importance of the recommendations in this document.**

*The donation is anonymous, voluntary and unpaid*