

## Blood - NAT Testing to Include Autologous Blood and Directed Donations

**Document Number** PD2006\_044

**Publication date** 29-Jun-2006

**Functional Sub group** Clinical/ Patient Services - Medical Treatment  
Clinical/ Patient Services - Information and data  
Clinical/ Patient Services - Pathology  
Population Health - Health Promotion

**Summary** The policy advises that the NSW Department of Health has extended the requirement for nucleic-acid amplification technology (NAT) testing for HIV-1 and HCV to autologous and directed blood donations.

**Author Branch** Clinical Policy

**Branch contact** Dr Jill Carstairs 9391 9407

**Applies to** Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Affiliated Health Organisations, Public Health System Support Division

**Audience** Blood Bank Transfusion Specialists, Scientists, Pathology, Nursing and Medical Staff

**Distributed to** Public Health System, Divisions of General Practice, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Department of Health, Public Hospitals, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres

**Review date** 29-Jun-2011

**File No.** 03/3122-4

**Status** Active

**Director-General**

**Compliance with this policy directive is mandatory.**

---

---

## NAT TESTING OF BLOOD TO INCLUDE AUTOLOGOUS BLOOD AND DIRECTED DONATIONS

This Policy Directive is intended for Transfusion Medicine Specialists, Blood Bank Scientists and Pathology Laboratory Staff.

It is a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) requirement that homologous blood and blood components be manufactured from blood that tests negative for HIV-1 and HCV using nucleic-acid amplification technology (NAT); see Therapeutic Goods Order No. 74: “*Standards for blood components*”.

The NSW Health Department has now extended the requirement for NAT testing to autologous and directed blood donations. This policy is in line with recommendations made by the AHMAC Blood and Blood Products Committee prior to the establishment of the Jurisdictional Blood Committee.

The Department of Health has funded the South Eastern Area Laboratory Services (SEALS) to establish a NAT testing facility that meets the regulatory requirements of the TGA. The NAT-testing service is available on a cost recovery basis. Enquiries about the service should be made to the Director of SEALS on (02) 93829300.

Robyn Kruk  
**Director-General**