

Canada to ban chronic-fatigue blood

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Canwest News Service

Published: Thursday, April 08, 2010

Canada is to ban people with chronic-fatigue syndrome from donating blood.

The move is a result of Health Canada's concern over a virus known as XMRV, which has only potentially been linked to chronic fatigue. XMRV closely resembles the HIV/AIDS virus, prompting fears it can be similarly transmitted through blood transfusions.

The virus has also been linked to prostate cancer.

Canada's blood supply is managed nationally through Canadian Blood Services, which has erred on the side of caution since the tainted-blood scandal in the 1970s and 1980s that saw thousands of blood recipients contract HIV and hepatitis C.

An estimated 340,000 Canadians have chronic-fatigue syndrome.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/canada/story.html?id=2776113>