

Date of publication: 3rd June 2009

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 12 - 2009

Reissued on 3rd June because of minor textual changes to Reason for Change section

Apheresis Donation in young and first time donors

Applies to:

Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the United Kingdom – 7th Edition 2005

and

Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines Edition 202 Release 12.

This change follows the acceptance of a review recommending that:

- a) Donors of blood components by apheresis can safely start to donate from their 17th birthday, provided that they meet UK Blood Services' donor acceptance criteria as assessed by routine procedures. (Level B recommendation)
- b) Donors may safely donate apheresis components without a prior whole blood donation. (Level B recommendation) However apheresis platelet donors should have a full set of mandatory infection screens performed at least 8 weeks prior to the first donation.

The full report (JPAC 09-16 Recommendations on Apheresis Donation in young and first time donors) supporting this change also recommends that:

"Implementation of this change of policy must be supported by monitoring and regular review of adverse events in all component donors, together with a prospective study of in younger donors. It is recommended that a study of infective markers in first time apheresis donors is conducted."

/Continued

Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the United Kingdom Chapter 6 Component Donation: apheresis

6.1 Criteria for acceptance of donors

Delete the third sentence of the first paragraph:

First-time apheresis donors should have given at least one routine blood donation without untoward effect within the last two years (as this may give an indication of their ability to tolerate an apheresis procedure).

And replace with:

First-time donors may give components by apheresis. Donors who will be giving platelets should have given at least one sample for mandatory infection screening within the last two years and at least 8 weeks prior to their platelet donation.

Delete the first bullet:

- first-time donors should be aged 18-60 years. Donors may continue to donate by this method up to the day before their 65th birthday

And replace with:

- first-time donors should be aged 17-65 years. There is no upper age limit for regular donors as long as they fulfil all other donor selection criteria.

Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines Edition 202 Release 12.

Delete the current entry:

Age

Obligatory

Whole Blood Donors

Must not donate if:

- a) They are under seventeen years of age.
- b) They are a first time donor who has had their sixty-sixth birthday.
- c) They are a returning donor who has had their seventieth birthday.

Component Donors

Must not donate if:

- a) They have not previously given a whole blood donation without untoward effect.
- b) They are under eighteen years of age.
- c) They are a returning donor who has had their seventieth birthday.

/Continued

Discretionary Regular donors can continue to donate past the age of 70 as long as they fulfil all other donor selection criteria. As with all donors they are assessed for their fitness to donate at every attendance

Additional Information The lower age limit takes into account national laws on age of consent.

An upper age limit on blood and component donation has traditionally been set to protect the donor's safety. There is however little evidence to support this. Audits have shown a decreased incidence of adverse events in older donors compared with younger donors. Further, experience in other blood services has shown no harm to donors over the age of 70 years.

A donor must have given at least one donation in the last two years to donate after their 70th birthday and continue thereafter with no less than one donation every two years to be considered a regular donor.

Provided donors remain in good health they may continue to donate within these guidelines.

When appropriate, donors may be accepted on their birthday.

Reason for change Within the UK, donors have been accepted until their seventieth birthday since 1998. A full review of the data acquired by the UK Blood Services of donor adverse events by the Standing Advisory Committee for the Care and Selection of Donors suggests that it would be safe to allow older donors to continue to donate past their seventieth birthday.

Donor adverse event data will be monitored closely and further modification of this guideline will be made in light of these findings.

And replace with:

Age

Obligatory

**Whole Blood Donors and Component Donors.
Must not donate if:**

- a) Under seventeen years of age.
- b) They are a first time donor who has had their sixty-sixth birthday.
- c) They are a returning donor who has had their seventieth birthday.

/Continued

Additional Information The lower age limit takes account of national laws on age of consent.

Upper age limits on blood and component donation have traditionally been set to protect the health of the donor. There is however little evidence to support this. Audits have shown a decreased incidence of adverse events in older donors compared with younger donors. Further experience in other blood services has shown no harm to donors over the age of 70 years.

A donor must have given at least one donation in the last two years to donate after their 70th birthday and continue thereafter with no less than one donation every two years to be considered a regular donor.

Provided donors remain in good health they may continue to donate within these guidelines.

When appropriate, donors may be accepted on their birthday.

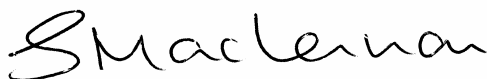
Reason for change Within the UK, donors have been accepted until their seventieth birthday since 1998. A full review of data acquired by the UK Blood Services of donor adverse events by the Standing Advisory Committee for the Care and Selection of Donors suggests that it would be safe to allow older donors to continue to donate past their seventieth birthday. Component donation acceptance criteria have been brought into line with those for whole blood as evidence shows that the procedure is at least as safe as whole blood donation.

Donor adverse event data will be monitored closely and further modification of this guideline will be made in light of these findings.

Further information

The supporting paper, JPAC 09-16 Recommendations on Apheresis Donation in young and first time donors (Final version 2.3), leading to this Change Notification can be found in the Document Library/Supporting Papers of the JPAC website:

<http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/Index.aspx?Publication=DL&Section=12&pageid=7528>.



Dr Sheila MacLennan
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS/NIBSC Professional Advisory Committee

Direct Dial: (0113) 214 8638

✉ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk