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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 26 - 2020

Haemoglobin Estimation

These changes apply to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines

Obligatory The haemoglobin concentration should be estimated each time a potential donor presents.

Lower limits

1. Whole Blood Donors

Must not donate if the haemoglobin concentration is less than:

a) Female donors: 125 g/l

b) Male donors: 135 g/l

2. Double Red Cell Donors

Must not donate if the haemoglobin concentration is less than:

Male and Female donors: 140 g/l

3. Component Donors who will only donate plasma

Must not donate if the haemoglobin concentration is less than:

a) Female donors: 120 g/l

b) Male donors: 130 g/l

4. All other Component Donors

Must not donate if the haemoglobin concentration is less than:

a) Female donors: 125 g/l

b) Male donors: 135 g/l

Upper limits

All Donors

Must not donate if the haemoglobin concentration is greater than:

a) Female donors: 165 g/l

b) Male donors: 180 g/l

If a donor is not accepted, the reason why must be explained to them and, if appropriate, advice given to see their own GP.

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<i>Discretionary</i>	<p>a) Potential donors whose haemoglobin concentration is estimated to be below the acceptable level may be asked to give a venous further sample of blood for testing by alternative means. If the venous haemoglobin concentration, tested by a validated method, is not less than the levels shown above, accept.</p> <p>b) If the haemoglobin concentration for males is greater than 180 g/l and for females is greater than 165 g/l and Polycythaemia Rubra Vera has been excluded, accept.</p>
<i>See if relevant</i>	Anaemia Polycythaemia
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>A 500 ml donation of whole blood contains about 250 mg of iron. It can take months for the average donor to replace this loss of iron from the diet. Taking a donation from a person with a haemoglobin concentration below the recommended value may make them anaemic.</p> <p>The lower haemoglobin acceptance limits apply only to plasmapheresis donors who will only donate plasma by apheresis. If it is anticipated that red cells or platelets will be collected during the procedure the donor must be assessed against a haemoglobin limits of 125 g/L for female donors and 135 g/L for male donors.</p> <p>Component donors giving double units of red cells lose twice as much iron and so it is even more important that they start with a good haemoglobin concentration.</p>
<i>Information</i>	Part of this entry is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.
<i>Reason for Change</i>	Polycythaemia Rubra Vera has been added to "Discretionary" Lower Haemoglobin limits for plasmapheresis donors have been introduced. This change is in keeping with the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations and Council of Europe Guidelines.

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