



National
Institute for
Biological
Standards and
Control



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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 6 - 2005

Age

Change to be applied to Donor Selection Guidelines DSG202.

The boxed text indicates where changes have been made.

Obligatory: **Component Donors.**
Must not donate if:
 Under eighteen years of age.

They have had their sixty-sixth birthday.

They have not previously given a whole blood donation without untoward effects.

Whole Blood Donors.
Must not donate if:
 Under seventeen years of age.

They are a first time donor who has had their sixty-sixth birthday.

They are a donor who has previously given blood and who has had their seventieth birthday.

Additional Information: The lower age limit takes account of national laws on age of consent. Upper age limits have traditionally been set to protect the health of the donor. There is however little evidence to support this and many blood services have now set aside an upper age limit. Whole blood donors have been accepted in the UK until their seventieth birthday since 1998. An audit has shown a decrease in adverse events in older donors compared to younger donors.

Provided older donors remain in good health they may continue to be accepted safely within these guidelines. As with all donors they are assessed for their fitness to donate at every attendance.

Donors may be accepted on their birthday.



Northern Ireland
BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE



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**Reason for
Change:**

To introduce guidance that is compliant with the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.

The upper age limit for component donors has been increased in line with the upper age limit for first time whole blood donors. The position regarding donating on birthdays has been clarified.

The criteria on this page changed on 01/11/2005

**Donor
Information:**

You can donate from your 17th birthday until your 70th birthday. First time donors can not be accepted after their 66th birthday.

Donors may donate on their birthday.

If you wish to obtain more information regarding a personal medical issue please contact your local help line.

Please do not contact this web site for personal medical queries, as we are not in a position to provide individual answers.

Dr Brian McClelland

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