5.10: Adverse reactions in donors

The care of all donors at blood collection venues should incorporate research-based therapeutic interventions to reduce the risk of adverse events of donation. An example of the preventative measures that can be implemented are described in ‘Points of care’ used within one UK Blood Service (see Appendix I at the end of this chapter). This is a donation care pathway designed to minimise vasovagal events, bruising and re-bleeding from the venepuncture site.

All adverse reactions in donors should be documented and reported according to standard protocols. It is recommended that as a minimum data are collected and reviewed on all donor adverse events of donation using the International Haemovigilance Network (IHN) definitions of DAEDs (Appendix II) or similar and a standard data set for Serious Adverse Events of Donation (SAEDs) that is in line with the IHN definitions of SAEDs (Appendix III). This will allow comparison over time and between services of event rates, and monitor the effectiveness of any interventions to reduce event rates. SAEDs should all be fully investigated with a root cause analysis or similar tool to ensure that proper preventative and corrective actions are implemented.

Serious adverse reactions occurring in donors during or post-donation must be reported to the Competent Authority according to the Blood Establishment protocol.