

Date of publication: 19 November 2014

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 46 - 2014

Mental Health Problems

Applies to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines only

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Not able to fully understand and consent to the donation process and to the testing of their blood for diseases that may affect its suitability for use.

See if Relevant

Communication Difficulties

Additional Information

Many people have mental health problems that are controlled with regular medication. Providing individuals are well on the day of donation and have the mental capacity to give full informed consent, there is no reason why they cannot donate whether on medication or not.

Individuals who are over anxious, depressed, manic or psychotic cannot always give valid consent, or fully understand why they are being asked certain questions.


Occasionally donors are on medication such as Clozapine and are under close monitoring. They should be accepted as long as they pass the Hb test.


Reason for Change

To ensure that all donors with mental health conditions can donate blood if they are well enough to do so and have the mental capacity to give full informed consent.



Dr Sheila MacLennan
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee

 Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638

 sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk