

# Consent for blood donation

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## Blood donation – World War 2 style

Consent consists of

- Volunteering
- Lying still
- Thinking of England  
[with apologies to  
Scotland, Wales,  
Northern Ireland & any  
other combatant  
nations...]



Taking the blood – an entirely painless proceeding



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A cup of tea and sweet biscuits all round. Your half-hour may mean a lifetime for someone else !

# Early years

- No consent in texts by Keynes [1922 & 1949]
- No consent mentioned in Mollison 1<sup>st</sup> edition
- Recommended to ask males about h/o venereal disease

# Pre-HIV era & post-HIV era

- 1985 HIV testing required formal consent
- Previous HBsAg / syphilis did not
- Information leaflets emerged
- Written consent at same time or followed

# Ways of giving consent

- verbally
- non-verbally, for example, raising a hand to indicate they are happy for a nurse to take a blood sample
- in writing, by signing a consent form

# Consenting process

- Signing provides confirmation that specified issues have been explained
- That such issues are understood by the donor
- And that they agree to the procedures advised / proposed
- That a clear and easy opt-out is available



# NHSBT

## Donor Consent - to be signed in the presence of a member of NHSBT staff

1. I have today read and understood the Welcome Booklet. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and they have been answered.
2. To the best of my knowledge I am not at risk of infection or of transmitting the infections listed in the Welcome Booklet.
3. I agree that my blood donation will be tested for HIV and other conditions listed in the Welcome Booklet. I understand that if my donation gives a positive result for any of these tests I will be informed and asked to participate in a post-test discussion.
4. I understand the nature of the donation process and the possible risks involved as explained in the Welcome Booklet.
5. I agree to NHS Blood and Transplant holding information about me, my health, my attendances and donations, to contacting my doctor for further information and using my donation for the purposes explained in the Welcome Booklet.
6. I give my blood to NHS Blood and Transplant to be used for the benefit of patients. This may be by direct transfusion to a patient or for other purposes as explained in the Welcome Booklet.

Date

DD	MM	YY
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Donor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# NHSBT Welcome Leaflet extract

## **YOUR BLOOD IS TESTED EACH TIME FOR:**

- Blood group.
- HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, syphilis and HTLV. If there is a positive result for any of these, we will contact you and offer further advice. Your donation will have to be destroyed.
- Extra tests are done as required e.g. malaria and sickle cell.

## **BLOOD USE**

The vast majority of donations are used for patients e.g. after blood loss or cancer treatment. However, occasionally blood donations may be used for laboratory work, education, training, research and development by us or other organisations.

## **RECORDS**

Information on donors, donations and test results is kept for at least 30 years. We are committed to protecting donor confidentiality and to meeting our responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998. If you want to know more, please read 'Data Protection: A Guide for Donors.'



# Essential issues in consent

- Voluntary nature of the procedure
- Potential risks of the procedure to the donor
- Importance of answering questions truthfully
- Information about the use[s] of their donation
- Ownership of the donation
- Data protection aspects & traceability
  - Cannot ask to be removed from database

# Potential problems

- Language
- Sensory incapacity; sight, hearing, literacy
- Time to read all the information
- Casually done, esp. regular donors
- Forms designed to encourage desired answer
- Other issues
  - Down syndrome for example

# Donation is “Go / No Go”

- Must accept all aspects of the consent
- Must provide name address etc.
- No ‘pick & mix’
- If a donor doesn’t like one part, they cannot be bled

# Non-therapeutic use

- Diagnostics; essential to transfusion practice
- Validation & Quality control
- Research
  - Anonymous
  - Untraceable
  - Is whole donation needed / will journals need consent?
- Donor epidemiology studies

# Donor rights

- No 'right to donate'
- So cannot insist on giving a donation
- But must be treated with respect & courtesy
- Donations are property of the blood service

## University of Melbourne's Canine Blood Bank

Dr Cathy Deague, veterinary registrar at the blood bank, says the bank is seriously low on the ground with canine blood.

We desperately need more canine blood donors. **Any healthy dog over 26kg and aged between one and six can become a donor.** Dogs should be up-to-date with basic preventative health care such as vaccinations, worming and heart worm prevention, and can donate every 12 weeks, she says.

**Consent!!!!???**

giveblood.ie  
you get more than you give





# Dog reunited with life-saving donor

A dog has been reunited at Christmas with the canine hero that saved his life a year ago by donating blood.

Last December, Bruno the cocker spaniel had just hours to live when he was rushed into pet hospital.

The seven-year-old was fighting a life-threatening condition in which his healthy red blood cells were being destroyed by his white blood cells.

His only chance of survival was to quickly find a suitable blood donor at the veterinary charity PDSA's hospital in Blackpool, Lancashire.

Luckily a suitable donor came forward in Max the labrador, that had an operation at the same hospital when he was younger to remove a blockage in his gut.

Did Max consent??!!





## Consent for dog blood donation

- I, Max the labrador, promise to hold out my paw when my master orders me
- I promise to hold still while the very small needle is put in
- My master promises to give me steak every day for a week if I am good
- I agree to be tested for canine distemper and mange
- I promise that I have done no more than sniff the rear quarters of any other dog in the last 12 human months

## Mark of Max



# Summary

- Design of the form
  - compliance, literacy
- Complications; iron stores...
- Tests to be done
- Ownership of the donation
- Data protection & traceability
- Non-therapeutic use; including sales
- Research to be performed