

Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service

POLICY DOCUMENT**Document Details****Document Number:** POL:95:AP:012:05:NIBT **No. of Appendices:** NONE**Supersedes Number:** POL:95:AP:012:04:NIBT**Document Title:** CHILDREN ATTENDING BLOOD DONATION SESSIONS**ISSUE DATE:** 5 FEBRUARY 2021**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 5 MARCH 2021**Document Authorisation****Written By:** Patricia Mackey, Nursing Services Manager**Signature:** Patricia Mackey**Date :** 04.09.2020**Approved By:** Matt Gillespie, Supply Chain Manager.**Signature:** Matt Gillespie**Date :** 11.09.2020**Approved By :** Dr Kathryn Maguire, Consultant in Transfusion Medicine.**Signature:** Dr Kathryn Maguire**Date :** 23.10.2020**Approved By:** Karin Jackson, Chief Executive**Signature:** Karin Jackson**Date :** 12.11.2020**CROSS REFERENCES**

This Policy refers to the following documents:

Doc Type	Doc. No.	Title
POL	PP:032	Equality Screening
FORM	DD:1041	Information for Donors – Children at Sessions

Key Change from Previous Revision:

Statement Please note that during the Covid-19 pandemic, a “donor only” attendance at session has been implemented.

- 4.2.1 Removed “highlighting the potential risks to the children, adult, and staff. Refer to card”.
- 4.3 Removed ‘Whether children go to the children’s area or not they should be offered a colouring-in book and crayons.’

1 STATEMENT

For many years children have accompanied adult blood donors attending blood donation sessions. Whilst this has not presented any significant difficulties, (particularly when there is only one child) consideration must be given to the challenges this might present.

In the first instance it is important that children remain the responsibility of the accompanying adult. NIBTS sessions do not currently offer child minding facilities.

Irrespective of the number of children, there must be due consideration of any risks presented e.g.:-

- To the children – if they were to put their hand against a hot surface, or into a sharps container

Consideration should be given to the adult – especially first-time donors who may encounter a reaction, with the possibility that they may not be able to look after the child(ren).

- To staff – if children were to walk/run through a donation venue, causing staff to trip, fall etc

Please note that during the Covid-19 pandemic, a “donor only” attendance at session has been implemented.

2 OVERVIEW

NIBTS seeks to present a service to all members of the public – young and old alike – who feel welcomed and valued when visiting NIBTS premises and blood donor sessions. However, the use of some equipment e.g. needles/sharps, and associated equipment, and hot fluids e.g. tea/ coffee in refreshment areas can present hazards – particularly to children who may not be adequately supervised. The responsibility for the care and supervision of children at session will remain with the accompanying adult.

This policy sets out a number of principles to address these issues.

3 RESPONSIBILITY

All blood donor session staff.

4 POLICY

4.1 Donors or prospective donors will be neither encouraged or discouraged from bringing a child to blood donation sessions.

4.2 When children attend with an adult, the following points are noted:-

4.2.1 The adult should be presented with an 'Information for Donors' card (FORM:DD:1041)

5 EQUALITY SCREENING OUTCOME

This policy has been drawn up and reviewed in light of the statutory obligations contained within Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998). In line with this statutory duty of equality this policy has been screened against particular criteria. Having considered the equality and human rights policy, NIBTS have concluded that there is no scope to promote equality or good relations and no risk of adverse impact on equality with regards to this policy or decision.

This policy has been drawn up and reviewed in light of the statutory obligations contained within Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998). In line with this statutory duty of equality this policy has been screened against particular criteria. If at any stage of the life of the policy there are any issues within the policy which are perceived by any party as creating adverse impacts on any of the groups under Section 75 that party should bring these to the attention of the Head of HR & Corporate Services.

The Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service is committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity for staff, donors and service users. We strive to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and that their rights are respected at all times. We believe that it is important that our policy is understood by all those whose literacy is limited, those who do not speak English as a first language or those who face communication barriers because of a

disability. On request it may be possible to make this policy available in alternative formats such as large print, Braille, disk, audio file, audio cassette, Easy Read or in minority languages to meet the needs of those not fluent in English.

6 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

As this policy is a reformatting of a previous document, there are no further training considerations.