

Mass General Brigham Parental Consent for Blood Donation

Your child has expressed interest in donating blood. State law requires that we obtain parental consent from potential donors who are 16 years of age. Blood donation is as safe for donors in their mid to late teenage years as it is for older donors.

The eligibility criteria used to determine donor safety does not vary with donor age. The child (donor) will go through a health history to determine their eligibility. This includes questions, blood pressure, pulse, and hemoglobin (iron) tests. All donors are tested for a series of infectious diseases including hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV/AIDS. In the remote event that your child has a positive test result, they will be notified according to federal guidelines which apply to all donors regardless of age. You will not be notified of these results unless your child provides written permission for you to be included in the notification process.

During donation, some donors may feel lightheaded or nauseous, and a few may even faint. Donors are monitored during and shortly after donation to intervene should a fainting spell occur. After donation occurs, donors occasionally experience pain or bruising of the arm, a localized reaction to the germicidal scrub, or rapid heartbeat. In very rare instances, donors may experience local nerve damage or infection. Less than one percent of blood donors have any kind of reaction.

The iron lost from blood donation is replaced from dietary sources. However, for some groups of people, blood donation is more likely to cause iron levels below normal. These groups include young donors (age < 26 years), premenopausal women, and frequent blood donors. Low iron stores can impair red blood cell production, resulting in anemia ("low blood count").

The Kraft Family Blood Donor Centers reduces risk of low iron stores in blood donors in the following ways: 1) we test a donor's hemoglobin level before each donation; 2) we provide iron education sheets for donors; 3) for donors < 19 years of age, we limit the frequency of blood donation to once per year. Additionally, at MGH, the donor will be offered iron supplements in accordance with AABB recommendations.

Blood donation is critical to the ongoing welfare of our community. Each blood donation can help up to 3 patients. Teaching our children about community service through blood donation is a positive, pro-social action that promotes internal feelings of self-worth and fulfillment from knowing that our actions have helped another human being.

Your child will be asked to read and sign an additional informed consent at the time of donation.

If you have any questions or comments about blood donation or this process of parental consent, please call the Kraft Family Blood Donor Center:

- For donations at BWH at (617) 632-3206
- For donations at MGH (617)-726-8165.

Blood Donor Parental Consent

I have read and understand the information above and I _____

(Print Parent/Guardian Name)

give my consent for _____ to donate blood.

(Print Donor Name)

My child (donor) is _____ years old. Date of Birth ____/____/____

I understand that my child (donor) must present this consent form at the time of donation in order to be eligible to donate.

I agree that my child (donor) is at least 16 years of age.

I understand that this consent form will remain in place until the child turns 17 years of age.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____