

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Iron and Blood Donation

For Blood Centers

1. What is the current AABB Standard on blood donation and iron? How does AABB's new report on iron management in blood donors affect this?

AABB Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services (31st edition) 5.2.1 #5 requires that, "... Donors are given educational materials regarding the risks of post donation iron deficiency." The new report from the AABB Ad Hoc Working Group on Iron Management Among Blood Donors concludes that additional interventions are appropriate and compares potential approaches. AABB had already identified some of these interventions in [Association Bulletin #17-02](#) (which superseded Association Bulletin #12-03). While blood centers may start to implement some of the practices described in #17-02 now, or may already be doing so, it is important to remember that the new report does not actually represent a requirement for blood centers to implement any of the suggested options.

AABB will review the report and determine if a new AABB standard regarding iron balance in donors should be implemented.

2. Does AABB provide any donor-friendly information on this topic?

Yes, see the document "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Iron and Blood Donation, For Donors and Parents." This document is not meant to be comprehensive or a substitute for medical advice.