

# Knowledge, attitudes and practice toward blood donation

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<b>Registration date</b> 27/05/2022	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 12/06/2023	<b>Condition category</b> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

There is an increasing demand for plasma-derived blood products in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), where about 300,000,000 USD was spent in 2015-2016 on imports of essential medicines derived from plasma. Self-sufficiency in this area is therefore important for the economy of KSA. However, there is no uniform application of national standards or a national monitoring system to guide Blood Establishments (organizations that manufacture products from blood) in KSA. This is made worse by a shortage of voluntary unpaid donors. For example, in 2008 the Saudi Ministry of Health and Saudi Pharmaceutical Society reported that of the existing 251 Blood Establishments only 14 had external accreditation and of over 400,000 donors only 39.5% were voluntary, with most of the remainder being replacement donors, i.e. people who donate directly for family and friends undergoing treatment requiring transfusion. This situation was essentially unchanged when reviewed in 2014. In 2018 the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) published Good Manufacturing Practice for Blood Establishments but the majority of Blood Establishments are yet to accreditation due to the newness of this initiative. This study aims to understand the reluctance for voluntary blood donation in KSA since a secure voluntary donor base is a prerequisite for any blood fractionation programme aiming to manufacture medicines from blood. Knowledge, attitudes and practice (KAP) regarding blood donation will be compared between KSA and Wales, where there is over 70 years' experience of voluntary blood donation. Data will be collected from the general public (potential blood donors) and medical professionals to determine any key differences which might explain the different practices. The hypothesis is that socio-cultural factors are the main drivers affecting the likelihood of becoming an altruistic blood donor. If confirmed, the data obtained will inform the process of converting non-donors and replacement donors into regular voluntary donors. Additionally, the research will attempt to quantify key differences in attitudes to regulation to determine current practice by KSA Blood Establishments from the newly introduced SFDA standards in order to determine the likelihood of compliance with the SFDA standards.

### Who can participate?

First survey (questionnaire): the general public eligible to donate blood by virtue of age (17-65 years), including university students and staff

Second survey (interview): leaders of blood transfusion establishments including medical consultants, clinical scientists and quality assurance leads

Third survey (questionnaire): professional users of transfusion services (medical and nursing) and professionals working in blood transfusion establishments (typically clinical scientists) but not those in leadership positions

What does the study involve?

The first survey will be conducted online using an online questionnaire tool licensed by Cardiff University ('online surveys' for the English version) and Google Forms (for the Arabic version). The survey takes 15-20 minutes to complete. For the second survey, a semi-structured interview will be employed. A sequence of validated questions would be asked, with two to five sub-questions following each question. The interview should take a maximum of 60 minutes to complete, depending on responses. The third survey will be held on the same online platform as Survey 1 but only in English as outlined above. The survey should take about 10-15 minutes to complete.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There are no inherent risks for the participants. Data collected will be anonymous and no identifiable data will be collected. The main burden will be the time commitment required to complete the questionnaire or interview. There will be no direct benefit to participants. It is hoped that information gathered from this study will help to identify strategies to increase voluntary blood donation and increase compliance with regulations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The findings may also be of relevance to other Gulf Cooperation Council states in the Middle East.

Where is the study run from?

Cardiff University (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

July 2019 to September 2023

Who is funding the study?

Saudi Arabia Cultural Bureau in London (UK)

Who is the main contact?

1. Amr Maqnas (maqnasay@cardiff.ac.uk)
2. Dr Keith Wilson (keith.wilson@wales.nhs.uk)

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Principal Investigator

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## **Additional identifiers**

**EudraCT/CTIS number**  
Nil known

**IRAS number**  
271608

**ClinicalTrials.gov number**  
Nil known

**Secondary identifying numbers**  
IRAS 271608

# Study information

## Scientific Title

Establishing a reliable and sustainable blood donation and blood quality system to enable the nationalization of manufacturing of plasma fractionation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

## Study objectives

The hypothesis is that socio-cultural factors are the main drivers affecting the likelihood of becoming a voluntary, non-remunerated blood donor. The key question (underlying assumption) is that knowledge affects attitude which in turn affects practice (KAP). The main objective of the research is to compare the knowledge of and attitudes towards voluntary blood donation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Wales to determine if this explains the difference in blood transfusion practice in the two countries with under half of KSA donors being voluntary compared to 100% in Wales.

## Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

## Ethics approval(s)

1. Approved 28/04/2022, HRA and Health and Care Research Wales (Address: not available; Tel: not available; approvals@hra.nhs.uk, HCRW.approvals@wales.nhs.uk), ref: 22/NI/0066
2. Approved 23/12/2019, School of Medicine, Cardiff University (Main Building, Heath Park, Cardiff, CF14 4XN, Wales, UK; Tel: not available; pgrmedic@cardiff.ac.uk), ref: 19/76
3. Approved 05/02/2020, Faculty of Medicine, King Abdul-Aziz University, KSA (PO Box 80205, Jeddah, 21589, Saudi Arabia; +966 (0)6952446; +966 (0)6952063; Email: not available), ref: 67-20

## Study design

Multi-center mixed-method comparative study

## Primary study design

Observational

## Secondary study design

Cross sectional study

## Study setting(s)

Other

## Study type(s)

Other

## Participant information sheet

See trial outputs table

## Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Voluntary blood donation among the Welsh and Saudi population

## Interventions

This study relies on the mixed method strategy, using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Three comparative surveys will be undertaken in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

and Wales, involving the potential blood donor population (Survey 1); professionals who hold leadership positions in blood transfusion establishments (Survey 2); and medical and nursing professionals who are the main users of blood transfusion services as well clinical scientists who work in blood transfusion establishments but not in leadership positions (Survey 3). The first and third surveys will be quantitative, while the second will be qualitative.

Three surveys have been developed as outlined above, and have been validated for content and understanding. The first survey is available in English and Arabic and the Arabic version has been subjected to both forward (English to Arabic) and backward (Arabic to English) translation using different accredited translation services to confirm accuracy. The second and third surveys are available only in English since the official language for science in KSA is English and the targeted professionals would be sufficiently competent to complete the surveys in English.

The first survey will be conducted online using an online questionnaire tool licensed by Cardiff University ('online surveys' for the English version) and Google Forms (for the Arabic version). The survey takes 15-20 minutes to complete.

For the second survey, a semi-structured interview will be employed. A sequence of validated questions would be asked, with two to five sub-questions following each question. The interview should take a maximum of 60 minutes to complete, depending on the responses.

The third survey will be held on the same online platform as Survey 1 but only in English as outlined above. The survey should take about 10-15 minutes to complete.

A variety of sampling approaches will be used in this research. The first survey will employ the simple random sample method where there is no stratification of potential respondents with all participants having an equal chance of participation. It would be aimed at the general public, particularly those who potentially meet the eligibility criteria to donate blood.

Purposive sampling will be used for the second survey (interview). With this technique the respondents are targeted - in this case leaders of blood establishments. The reason for this is to determine what appetite leaders in the field have for regulation and changing services in response to regulatory requirements. This is because adopting change, even if mandated, would be delegated to the leaders of services. The primary target audience for this poll is medical, scientific and quality assurance professionals working in blood transfusion establishments.

For the third survey, stratified random sampling will be utilized, where responses would be analysed by subgroups. This poll is aimed at blood transfusion laboratory staff as well as medical and nursing professionals who utilise blood transfusion services, i.e. clinical services with high transfusion rates. These workers would be essential in complying with regulations in the form of adherence to transfusion standards, documentation, reporting and investigating adverse events. Without a willingness to maintain these standards attempts to adopt regulatory standards would be futile.

## **Intervention Type**

Other

## **Primary outcome measure**

Knowledge and attitudes to blood transfusion and regulation amongst the public and relevant professionals (leaders in blood transfusion services and main service users) in Wales and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, measured using two online questionnaires and an interview at a single timepoint

## **Secondary outcome measures**

The interrelationship between knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) of blood transfusion and relevant regulation, as well as differences in this KAP between potential blood donors, workers in blood transfusion establishments, and professionals who use blood transfusion services, such as medical and nursing professionals in surgical specialties in KSA and Wales, measured using two online questionnaires and an interview at a single timepoint

## **Overall study start date**

01/07/2019

## **Completion date**

29/09/2023

# **Eligibility**

## **Key inclusion criteria**

First survey (questionnaire):

The general public eligible to donate blood by virtue of age (17-65 years), including university students and staff.

Second survey (interview):

Leaders of blood transfusion establishments including medical consultants, clinical scientists and quality assurance leads.

Third survey (questionnaire):

Professional users of transfusion services (medical and nursing) and professionals working in blood transfusion establishments (typically clinical scientists) but not those in leadership positions.

## **Participant type(s)**

Mixed

## **Age group**

Adult

## **Lower age limit**

17 Years

## **Upper age limit**

65 Years

## **Sex**

Both

## **Target number of participants**

1286

## **Total final enrolment**

713

**Key exclusion criteria**

First survey:

Members of the general public not within the permissible age for blood donation, i.e. those not between ages 17-65 years

Second survey:

The general public and workers in blood transfusion establishments who do not occupy positions of leadership

Third survey:

The general public and leaders of blood transfusion establishments

**Date of first enrolment**

15/06/2020

**Date of final enrolment**

15/06/2023

**Locations****Countries of recruitment**

Saudi Arabia

United Kingdom

Wales

**Study participating centre**

**Cardiff University**

United Kingdom

CF14 4YS

**Study participating centre**

**Cardiff & Vale University Lhb**

Woodland House

Maes-y-coed Road

Cardiff

United Kingdom

CF14 4HH

**Study participating centre**

**Swansea Bay University Local Health Board**

One Talbot Gateway, Seaway Drive

Seaway Parade Industrial Estate

Baglan

Port Talbot  
United Kingdom  
SA12 7BR

**Study participating centre**  
**Hywel Dda University Lhb**  
Corporate Offices, Ystwyth Building  
Hafan Derwen  
St Davids Park, Jobswell Road  
Carmarthen  
United Kingdom  
SA31 3BB

**Study participating centre**  
**Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Local Health Board**  
Dewi Sant Hospital  
Albert Road  
Pontypridd  
United Kingdom  
CF37 1LB

**Study participating centre**  
**Aneurin Bevan University Lhb**  
Headquarters - St Cadoc's Hospital  
Lodge Road  
Caerleon  
Newport  
United Kingdom  
NP18 3XQ

**Study participating centre**  
**Powys Teaching Lhb**  
Bronllys Hospital  
Bronllys  
Brecon  
United Kingdom  
LD3 0LS

**Study participating centre**  
**Velindre NHS Trust**  
Unit 2



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## Sponsor information

### Organisation

Cardiff University

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### Sponsor type

University/education

### Website

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/>

### ROR

<https://ror.org/03kk7td41>

## Funder(s)

### Funder type

Other

### Funder Name

Saudi Arabia Cultural Bureau in London

### Alternative Name(s)

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia Cultural Bureau in London, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia - Cultural Bureau in London, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia Cultural Bureau, SACB

### Funding Body Type

Private sector organisation

**Funding Body Subtype**  
Other non-profit organizations

**Location**  
United Kingdom

## Results and Publications

**Publication and dissemination plan**

The results will be disseminated primarily via the researcher's PhD thesis. Relevant findings will be submitted for publication in scientific journals and at national and international scientific conferences. The findings will also be submitted to the funders and the relevant agencies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The researcher is a PhD student at Cardiff University. The study was externally peer-reviewed by experts in Transfusion Medicine and accepted as being of sufficient academic and scientific merit by Cardiff University before the applicant was accepted for enrollment. The thesis will also be defended before an external examiner.

**Intention to publish date**  
29/09/2024

**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

The two questionnaires will be conducted online using an online questionnaire tool licensed by Cardiff University ('online surveys' for the English version) and Google Forms (for the Arabic version). The interviews will be held via Zoom and the recordings will be kept on Cardiff University's file store service designed specifically for live research data and which is suitable for storing highly confidential (C1) data. This storage benefits from Cardiff University's system of backing-up data to prevent/minimise file corruption. Access would be limited to the researcher (Amr Maqnas) and the lead supervisor via appropriate login credentials. The researchers will not collect any information that will identify participants personally. They will use initials, age and gender to better understand differences (if any) between different age and gender groups.

**IPD sharing plan summary**  
Stored in non-publicly available repository

**Study outputs**

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Donors version 3.2	25/03/2022	18/05/2022	No	Yes
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Professionals version 3.2	25/03/2022	18/05/2022	No	Yes