

Issued by JPAC: 31 January 2017

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 04 - 2017

This change applies to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines

Hepatitis A

Please modify the entry as follows:

1. Affected Individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 6 months from recovery.

Discretionary

~~If fully recovered, and documented HAV RNA negative, anti HAV IgG positive after recovery, accept.~~

See if Relevant

Travel

Additional Information

Hepatitis A is spread by the faecal - oral route and by sewage-contaminated food and water. It can also be spread sexually. There is no long term infection with the virus but there are many reports of transmission by transfusion. Infection may be symptom free but can be serious and occasionally fatal. The Blood Services do not test for this infection.

Reason for change

~~The obligatory deferral has been reduced from 12 to 6 months and a discretion to accept on full recovery added. Additional Information has been updated. The discretionary acceptance on full recovery prior to 6 months has been removed~~

2. Current or Former Sexual Partner of Affected Individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 6 months from recovery of current sexual partner, or from last sexual contact if a former sexual partner.

Discretionary

~~If shown to be immune, accept.~~

\Continued

Additional Information There is a risk of transmitting the infection through sexual activity. Infection may be symptom free but can be serious and occasionally fatal. The 6 month exclusion allows any infection to run its natural course and for any risk of passing the infection on through donation to have passed.

Reason for change ~~The obligatory deferral has been reduced from 12 to 6 months.~~ The discretionary acceptance has been removed

3. Person Currently or Formerly Sharing a Home with an Affected Individual

Obligatory **Must not donate if:**
Less than 6 months from recovery of the last affected person in the home, or from the last contact if no longer sharing.

~~**Discretionary** If shown to be immune, accept.~~

Additional Information Because hepatitis A is spread by the faecal - oral route household contacts may easily become infected. Infection may be symptom free but can be serious and occasionally fatal. The 6 month exclusion allows any infection to run its natural course and for any risk of passing the infection on through donation to have passed.

Reason for change ~~The obligatory deferral has been reduced from 12 to 6 months.~~ The discretionary acceptance has been removed

4. Immunization

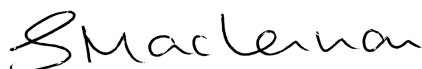
Discretionary **No known exposure:**
Accept.

See if Relevant Hepatitis B - 4. Immunization
Travel

Additional Information Hepatitis A immunization is advised before travel to parts of the world where other infections relevant to donating such as malaria are common. The donor should be asked about any relevant travel history.

Hepatitis A immunization may be combined with Hepatitis B immunization.

Reason for change The 'Additional Information' has been extended.



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