

Issued by JPAC: 12 April 2018

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 17 2018

Hepatitis E

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

Please make the following changes to the entry:

1. ~~Affected Individual~~

Obligatory

Must not donate if:
Less than 6 months from recovery.

Discretionary

If ~~less than 6 months from recovery~~ **if fully recovered**, and documented HEV RNA negative **and** anti HEV IgG positive ~~after recovery~~, accept.

See if Relevant

Travel

Additional Information

Hepatitis E is an infectious hepatitis that is usually spread through contaminated food or water. Infection may be associated with travel to countries with poor hygiene/sewage conditions but increasingly, cases of hepatitis E are being identified in the UK usually due to consumption of undercooked contaminated meat. Hepatitis E can affect non-human animals and has been found in pigs in the UK. There have been reports of transmission by transfusion. Infection in healthy individuals is often symptom free but in people with underlying problems in their immune systems it can be serious and occasionally fatal.

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 deferral for household and sexual contacts has been removed.**

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~~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 partner has fully recovered, and documented that partner is HEV RNA negative, anti HEV IgG positive after recovery, accept.
Additional Information	There is a small risk of transmitting the infection through sexual activity. Infection may be symptom free but can be serious and occasionally fatal. The 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 and a discretion to accept on full recovery added. Additional Information has been updated.

~~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 last affected/ infected person has fully recovered, and it is documented that this person is HEV RNA negative, anti HEV IgG positive after recovery, accept.
Additional Information	Hepatitis E may be spread by the faecal-oral route but in the UK is usually associated with infected meat. Person-to-person spread is rare by household contact but families may be consuming the same food and therefore have been exposed to the same source of infection. Infection may be symptom free but can be serious and occasionally fatal. The 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 and a discretion to accept on full recovery added. Additional Information has been updated.

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