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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 46 2016

Applies to the Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines for Deceased Tissue Donors, Live Tissue Donors, Cord Blood Donors and Bone Marrow & Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Donors

Hepatitis A

Please replace the current Hepatitis A entry with the text below. This harmonizes the Tissue and Cell Donor guidelines with the guidelines for Whole Blood and Component Donors

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.

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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 shown to be immune, accept.
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.

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.

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4. Immunization

Obligatory

**Known exposure.
Must not donate if:**

Less than six weeks after vaccine or intramuscular immunoglobulin was given.

Discretionary

No known exposure:
Accept.

See if Relevant

[Hepatitis B - Post Immunization
Travel](#)

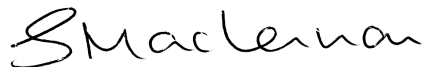
Additional Information

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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