

Change Notification for the UK Blood Transfusion Services

Date of Issue: 09 May 2023

Implementation: to be determined by each Service

No. 18 – 2023

Hepatitis B and Hepatitis of Unknown Cause

Revised entries

Changes are indicated using the key below. This formatting will not appear in the final entry.

original text

«inserted text»

~~deleted text~~

The following changes apply to:

BM-DSG Bone Marrow & Peripheral Blood Stem Cell	CB-DSG Cord Blood	GDRI Geographical Disease Risk Index	TD-DSG Tissue – Deceased Donors	TL-DSG Tissue – Live Donors	WB-DSG Whole Blood & Components
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1 Hepatitis B entry

Definitions: No change	
1. Active or recovered hepatitis B infection	
<i>Obligatory</i>	Must not donate This includes donors who are identified as anti-HBc positive by Blood Transfusion Service testing.
<i>Discretionary</i>	«a) If: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The history of HBV infection is not certain, and It is more than 12 months from recovery, and A test for Anti-HBc will be performed, accept for donation or take samples for testing, as directed by local procedures.» a) If more than 12 months from recovery and the history of HBV infection is not certain, take samples for HBV and anti-HBc testing. No donation should be taken. b) If the donor has «been tested previously » undergone anti-HBc testing by the Blood Transfusion Service, the donor has been approved to donate by a DCSD, and no new «risks are» risk is disclosed, accept.
<i>Post-session review of results</i>	a) anti-HBc positive donors. Must not donate b) anti-HBc negative donors who reported hepatitis B infection. If more than 12 months from recovery and, «If: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more than 12 months from recovery, and»

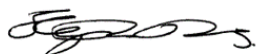
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The donor is negative for all markers (HBsAg, screening HBV DNA and anti-HBc negative); and; Review of their clinical history by a DCSO indicates that it is unlikely the donor had HBV infection; <p>accept for donation.</p>				
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>SaBTO have recommended that all donors are tested at least once for anti-HBc, which is a marker of hepatitis B infection. Individuals who have recovered from hepatitis B will remain anti-HBc positive. There is a risk that reactivation of hepatitis B virus in such an individual could give rise to occult hepatitis B infection which is not detected by routine testing. For this reason, donors who are anti-HBc positive are deferred from donation.</p> <p>SaBTO included in their recommendations a discretion that anti-HBc positive donors could be accepted if (1) they have adequate immunity to HBV, as demonstrated by an anti-HBs result of greater than 100 iu/l in a validated assay within 24 months of donation and (2) all of their donations will be tested by individual HBV DNA testing. UK Blood Transfusion Services are not currently implementing this approach. These guidelines will be revised should any service implement this additional testing at a future date.</p> <p>It is likely that donors who are anti-HBc negative have not had hepatitis B in the past. Such donors can be accepted provided their clinical history has been reviewed by a DCSO. They do not require any additional testing once the diagnosis of hepatitis B has been excluded.</p>				
<p>2. Individuals with current exposure to someone with active HBV infection</p> <p><i>No change</i></p>					
<p>3. Individuals with current exposure to someone with recovered HBV infection</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Obligatory</i></th> <th>Must not donate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Discretionary</i></td> <td> <p>a) If:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is at least 3 months after a sexual partner recovered from hepatitis B; and/or it is at least 4 months after a household contact recovered from hepatitis B; «it is at least 3 months after a sexual partner recovered from hepatitis B, and it is at least 4 months after a household contact recovered from hepatitis B, and a test for Anti-HBc will be performed, <p>accept for donation or take samples for testing, as directed by local procedures».</p> <p>take samples for anti-HBc testing, in addition to HBV testing.</p> <p>No donation should be taken.</p> <p>b) If the donor has «been previously tested» undergone anti-HBc testing by the Blood Transfusion Service, the donor has been approved to donate by a DCSO, and no new risk is disclosed, accept</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<i>Obligatory</i>	Must not donate	<i>Discretionary</i>	<p>a) If:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is at least 3 months after a sexual partner recovered from hepatitis B; and/or it is at least 4 months after a household contact recovered from hepatitis B; «it is at least 3 months after a sexual partner recovered from hepatitis B, and it is at least 4 months after a household contact recovered from hepatitis B, and a test for Anti-HBc will be performed, <p>accept for donation or take samples for testing, as directed by local procedures».</p> <p>take samples for anti-HBc testing, in addition to HBV testing.</p> <p>No donation should be taken.</p> <p>b) If the donor has «been previously tested» undergone anti-HBc testing by the Blood Transfusion Service, the donor has been approved to donate by a DCSO, and no new risk is disclosed, accept</p>
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<i>Post-session review of results</i>	<p>a) If the donor is negative for HBV and Anti-HBc «all hepatitis B markers, including anti-HBc», the donor can be accepted. Additional hepatitis B testing is not required for future donations unless the donor discloses a new risk.</p> <p>b) If any of HBsAg, anti-HBc or HBV DNA are positive, refer to Section 1: Active or recovered hepatitis B infection.</p>
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>The risk of acquiring hepatitis B infection from someone who has recovered from hepatitis B is very low. Testing for anti-HBc will rule out the possibility that the donor picked up HBV at an earlier stage when their sexual or household contact may have been infectious.</p> <p>If the sexual or household contact has no history of hepatitis B but has been told they are anti-HBc positive, indicating previous infection only, it is likely that several months have elapsed since the contact cleared the virus from their circulation. The donor can be accepted for «donation if» anti-HBc testing «will be undertaken on the donation», as long as their contact has not had an unexplained illness consistent with hepatitis B in the previous 3 months (sexual partner) or 4 months (household contact). There is no requirement to test the sexual partner or household contact.</p>
<p>4. Individuals with previous exposure to someone with active or recovered HBV infection</p>	
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>Must not donate</p>
<i>Discretionary</i>	<p>a) If:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is at least 3 months since sexual contact, ander • it is at least 4 months since household contact, «and • a test for anti-HBc will be performed on the donation, accept for donation or take samples for testing, as directed by local procedures. <p>samples should be taken for HBV and anti-HBc testing. No donation should be taken.</p> <p>b) If the donor has «been tested previously» undergone anti-HBc testing by the Blood Transfusion Service, the donor has been approved to donate by a DCSSO, and no new «risks are» risk is disclosed, accept.</p>
<i>Post-session review of results</i>	<p>a) If the donor is negative for HBV and Anti-HBc «all hepatitis B markers, including anti-HBc,» the donor can be accepted. Additional hepatitis B testing is not required for future donations unless the donor discloses a new risk.</p> <p>b) If any of HBsAg, anti-HBc or HBV DNA are positive, refer to Section 1: Active or recovered hepatitis B infection</p>
<p>5. Individuals undergoing Hepatitis B immunisation <i>No changes</i></p>	
<i>Reason for Change</i>	<p>«The instruction to take samples rather than a donation in sections 1, 3 and 4 has been removed. These donors can be accepted for donation or samples in line with local policies and procedures.»</p> <p>All sections of the hepatitis B entry have been revised to reflect SaBTO recommendations for anti-HBc testing of all blood donors.</p>

2 Hepatitis of Unknown Cause entry

<i>«Definitions</i>	<p>HBV: Hepatitis B virus HBsAg: Hepatitis B surface antigen Anti-HBs: Antibody against hepatitis B surface antigen Anti-HBc: Antibody against hepatitis B core antigen»</p>
<p>1. Person with Hepatitis of Unknown Cause <i>No change</i></p>	
<p>2. Person with previous (recovered) Hepatitis of Unknown Cause</p>	
<i>Definitions</i>	<p>HBV: Hepatitis B virus HBsAg: Hepatitis B surface antigen Anti-HBs: Antibody against hepatitis B surface antigen Anti-HBc: Antibody against hepatitis B core antigen</p>
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>Must not donate if: «If less» Less than 24 months from recovery.</p>
<i>Discretionary</i>	<p>«a) If:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is more than 12 months from recovery, and • a test for Anti-HBc will be performed, <p>accept for donation or take samples for testing, as directed by local procedures.</p> <p>b) If the donor has undergone previous testing by the Blood Transfusion Service, accept.</p> <p>c) If more than 24 months from recovery, accept. »</p> <p>a) If more than 12 months and less than 24 months from recovery, and all markers i.e. HbsAg, individual HBV DNA and Anti-HBc (anti-HBs is not required) are negative, accept. b) If more than 24 months from recovery, accept.</p>
<i>«Post-session review of results»</i>	<p>«a) anti-HBc positive donors Must not donate b) If the donor is negative for all HBV markers (HBsAg, screening HBV DNA and anti-HBc, accept.»</p>
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>Most hepatitis of unknown origin will have been due to hepatitis A or hepatitis E (or non-viral causes). Additional testing for those who give a history of hepatitis between 12 and 24 months previously ensures anti-HBc testing is carried out, to exclude hepatitis B infection. After 24 months, donation testing for anti-HBc will be carried out routinely, as it will be at least two years since the donor last gave a blood donation or samples for testing by the transfusion service. These guidelines will be revised if policy for anti-HBc testing changes.</p>
<i>Reason for Change</i>	<p>The Discretionary and Additional Information sections have been updated to reflect SaBTO recommendations for anti-HBc testing of blood donors.</p>

3. Household or Sexual Contact of someone with Hepatitis of Unknown Cause	
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>a) Must not donate if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 12 months from last household or sexual contact; or • if ongoing household or sexual contact, less than 12 months from recovery of the sexual or household contact <p>b) If the household or sexual contact is thought to have had hepatitis B infection, refer to the Hepatitis B entry</p>
<i>See if Relevant</i>	<u>Hepatitis B</u>
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>The 12-month deferral period is to avoid transmission of any infection through transfusion.</p> <p>There are different rules for contact with someone who has had hepatitis B. These should be followed if the donor reports that a household or sexual contact was most likely to have had hepatitis B.</p>
<i>Reason for Change</i>	The guidance for household and sexual contacts has been merged into one section and a reference to the Hepatitis B entry has been added.
<i>«Reason for Change</i>	The entry has been updated to use a similar structure to the entry for HBV.»



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