

Date of publication: 18 January 2016

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 02 - 2016

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

Hepatitis A

Please modify entries 1 to 3 of this topic 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	<u>Travel</u>
Additional Information	Hepatitis A is spread by the faecal - oral route and by sewage-contaminated food and water. Hepatitis A immunisation is recommended prior to travel to endemic areas. 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.

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.

Continued

Reason for change The obligatory deferral has been reduced from 12 to 6 months.

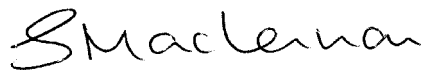
3. Person Currently or Formerly Sharing a Home with an Affected Individual

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.



Dr Sheila MacLennan
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee
☎ Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638 ✉ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk