

Issued by JPAC: 27 August 2019

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 12 - 2019

Hepatitis A

These changes apply to all Cell and Tissue 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 infection, but** fully recovered, **and** documented HAV RNA negative **and** 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

To **clarify the wording of the discretionary entry permit acceptance of donors who are shown to be immune after recovery.**

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.

<i>Discretionary</i>	If shown to be immune, accept.
<i>Additional Information</i>	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.
<i>Reason for Change</i>	To permit acceptance of donors who are shown to be immune.

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

<i>Obligatory</i>	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.
<i>Discretionary</i>	If shown to be immune, accept.
<i>Additional Information</i>	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.
<i>Reason for Change</i>	To permit acceptance of donors who are shown to be immune.

4. Immunization

<i>Obligatory</i>	Known exposure. Must not donate if: Less than six months after vaccine or intramuscular immunoglobulin was given.
<i>Discretionary</i>	No known exposure: Accept.
<i>See if Relevant</i>	Hepatitis B - Post Immunization Travel
<i>Additional Information</i>	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.

If less than 6 months from immunisation following known exposure, the donor may be accepted following individual risk assessment if the risk of delaying transplant outweighs the risk of transmission of hepatitis A.

Reason for Change

The deferral period for immunization post known exposure has been reviewed following guidance from Public Health England.

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