

Change Notification for the UK Blood Transfusion Services

Date of Issue: 31 July 2024

Implementation: to be determined by each Service

No. 18 – 2024

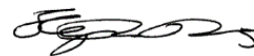
Animal Bite (Non-Human)

This notification includes the following changes:

	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	Red Book Guidelines for the BTS in the UK
1. Animal Bite (Non-Human)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Snake Bite	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Dr Angus Wells
Chair of Standing Advisory Committee on Care & Selection of Donors (SACCSO)



Dr Stephen Thomas
Professional Director of JPAC

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

original text	«inserted text»	deleted text
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1. Changes apply to the **Whole Blood and Components DSG**

Animal Bite (Non-Human)

(revised entry)

<i>«Includes</i>	Snake bite.»
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>Must not donate if:</p> <p>a) Ever bitten by a non-human primate (monkeys and apes).</p> <p>b) Less than 12 months since being bitten by a bat or exposed to bat saliva anywhere in the world.</p> <p>c) Less than 12 months since being bitten by any other mammal outside of the British Isles (UK and Ireland).</p> <p>d) Any wound is infected or not healed.</p> <p>«e) The donor is not fully recovered.»</p>
<i>See if Relevant</i>	<p>«Immunisation»</p> <p><u>Infection - General</u></p> <p><u>Rabies</u></p> <p>«Surgery»</p> <p>For a human bite:</p> <p><u>Non-Consented Exposure to Human Body Fluids</u></p>
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>Animal bites may result in many different infections. Allowing all wounds to heal and for any obvious infection to have resolved should avoid problems. «As well as local care of the bite, donors may receive other treatments such as antibiotics or immunisation; these may affect the donor's eligibility.»</p> <p>Bites from poisonous (venomous) snakes can cause extensive local tissue damage that can take a long time to heal and may require surgery. Depending on the species of biting snake, their venom can cause problems with blood clotting and, in severe cases, require transfusion of blood components (e.g. plasma or cryoprecipitate).»</p> <p>There is a concern that bites from non-human primates, because of close genetic links, may transmit diseases that could cause illness in people. It is known that some diseases have been transmitted by this route. For this reason any person who has ever been bitten by a non-human primate is not allowed to donate. Non-human primates include chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, monkeys (old and new world), tarsiers, lemurs and lorises.</p> <p>Anyone who has been in unusual contact with a bat, such as handling a sick or injured bat, should be considered at risk of rabies. Bat bites are usually</p>

	<p>insignificant and easily overlooked. Merely being in a place where bats roost is not considered a risk.</p> <p>Rabies, and similar diseases, have long incubation periods and do not show as a wound infection. There is no evidence that these infections have ever been transmitted through a blood transfusion. These diseases appear to be confined to the nervous system during their incubation periods. There is evidence that they have been transmitted through organ, tissue and ocular transplants.</p>
<p><i>Reason for Change</i></p>	<p>«Guidance on snake bites is now included in this entry. A reminder to assess treatments beyond local wound care has been added to the additional information section. The see if relevant section has been updated.»</p> <p>To introduce a 12-month deferral period after a bat bite or exposure to bat saliva and after a bite by any other mammal outside the British Isles.</p> <p>To give more information on the definition of a non-human primate.</p>
<p><i>Donor Information</i></p>	<p>If you wish to obtain more information regarding a personal medical issue, please contact your National Help Line.</p> <p>Please do not contact this web site for personal medical queries, as we are not in a position to provide individual answers.</p>

2. Changes apply to the **Whole Blood and Components DSG**

Snake Bite

(removed entry)

The current entry will be **removed** and the following redirections added to the A-Z index:

Bite - Snake » ~~Snake Bite~~ «Animal Bite (Non-Human)»

Snake Bite » Animal Bite (Non-Human)