

Change Notification for the UK Blood Transfusion Services

Date of Issue: 13 August 2024

Implementation: to be determined by each Service

No. 34 – 2024

Vitamin Treatment

This notification includes the following changes:

BM-DSG	CB-DSG	GDRI	TD-DSG	TL-DSG	WB-DSG	Red Book
Bone Marrow & Peripheral Blood Stem Cell	Cord Blood	Geographical Disease Risk Index	Tissue - Deceased Donors	Tissue - Live Donors	Whole Blood & Components	Guidelines for the BTS in the UK

1. Vitamin Treatment



Dr Akila Chandrasekar
 Chair of Standing Advisory Committee on
 Tissues & Cellular Therapy Products (SACTCTP)

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»

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1. Changes apply to the **Bone Marrow and Peripheral Blood Stem Cell DSG**

Vitamin Treatment

(revised entry)

<p><i>Obligatory</i></p>	<p>Must not donate if: On prescribed medication to treat a deficiency.</p> <p>«a) There is an underlying cause for vitamin deficiency that is a reason for exclusion.</p> <p>b) If the donor has neurological damage due to B12 deficiency.»</p>
<p><i>Discretionary</i></p>	<p>«a) If the donor is being treated for a deficiency, discuss with DCSO.</p> <p>b)» If on oral self-medication or prescribed treatment to prevent deficiency, accept.</p>
<p><i>Additional Information</i></p>	<p>«Vitamins commonly given to treat a deficiency include vitamin D, vitamin B12 and folic acid. Vitamin D is usually caused by dietary lack and lack of exposure to sunlight which do not contraindicate donation.</p> <p>Vitamin B12 deficiency may be dietary or due to failure of absorption. One such failure of absorption, pernicious anaemia, is an autoimmune disorder usually caused by the body attacking the lining of the stomach. Other causes of malabsorption include coeliac disease, small bowel bacterial overgrowth and surgical removal of the stomach. Acceptable if due to stomach operation or dietary deficiency (e.g. vegan), and donor meets haemoglobin requirements.</p> <p>Stem cell donors will have blood tests done before donation. These would pick up any effects of vitamin deficiency that could impact on the safety of donation such as low calcium and anaemia and allow individualised management.»</p> <p>People who are on treatment for a vitamin deficiency should not donate even if they pass the haemoglobin-screening test. Once treatment is completed they should be accepted or excluded on the basis of the underlying condition that required treatment.</p> <p>Vitamins are often prescribed to prevent deficiency. This might be for coeliac disease or for people wanting to conceive. Providing any underlying condition is not a reason to exclude, the donor should be accepted.</p>
<p>«Reason for Change</p>	<p>To provide more detailed guidance regarding when affected donors can be accepted.»</p>