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**Implementation:** To be determined by each Service

## **Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 19 - 2009**


# **Body Piercing**

**Applies to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines only**

<b>Obligatory</b>	<b>Must not donate if:</b>  Less than 12 months after last piercing.
<b>Discretionary</b>	If after 4 months a validated test for hepatitis B core antibody is negative, accept.
<b>Additional Information</b>	<p>Piercing has passed infection from person to person. Waiting twelve months helps to ensure that the infections tested for by the Blood Services will be picked up.</p> <p>This guidance presumes that a validated NAT test for hepatitis C is negative, if this test is stopped for any reason the guidance will change.</p> <p>During the recovery phase of HBV infection levels of free HBsAg may be too low to detect and antibody to hepatitis B core antigen may be the only indicator of infectivity.</p>
<b>Reason for Change</b>	To reflect updated JPAC Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infections guidance on infection risk in line with The Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.



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