

Date of publication: 31 July 2014

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 36 - 2014

Homosexual and Bisexual Individuals

Applies to the Deceased Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines

Please modify the entry as follows:

1. Female

Discretionary

Accept

Additional Information

There is no evidence that there is an increased risk of sexually transmitted infections in homosexual or bisexual females compared to heterosexual females.

Reason for Change

This is a new entry, combining the previous entries for 'Homosexual' and 'Bisexual' individuals. 'Additional Information' has been added.

2. Male

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Has had oral or anal sex with another man, even if a condom or other protective was used.

Discretionary

1. Pancreatic islets and hepatocytes:

Current practice for donor selection is similar to that for solid organs and their acceptance is patient specific. There is no specific restriction regarding male-sex-with-male (MSM) behaviour but individual risk/benefit assessment is required.

2. Other tissues:

One of four possible scenarios may apply:

a) Family / next of kin / GP / hospital not aware of any MSM activity. No evidence of MSM activity, accept

\Continued

- b). Male known by family / next of kin / GP / hospital to have engaged in MSM activity in the past, but known to have had no MSM sexual activity in previous 12 months, accept.
- c) Male known by family / next of kin / GP / hospital to be engaged in MSM activity and is presumed/known to be sexually active in the 12 months before death, not eligible to donate.
- d) Male known by family / next of kin / GP / hospital to have engaged in MSM activity in the past. Family unaware of date of last MSM activity, not eligible to donate.

See if relevant

Tissue Safety Entry

Additional Information

The guidance has been changed in line with recommendations from the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO). The recommendations have been noted by the English Department of Health and the devolved authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Men who have sex with other men have a higher chance of having an undiagnosed infection which could be passed to anyone receiving their blood, tissues or cells. During 2012 and 2013, SaBTO commissioned a subgroup to review the donor selection criteria and risks associated with the donation of tissues and cells by men who have had sex with men.

This review considered advances in the sensitivity of testing procedures currently in use in the UK, the prevalence of transfusion transmissible infections in men who have had sex with men, the current level of compliance with the donor selection guidelines and, where applicable, the additional processes used to reduce the risk of transmission of viral infection. This review recommended that the deferral period for men who have had sex with men should be reduced to 12 months after last sexual contact.

Reason for Change

To allow the collection of pancreatic islets and hepatocytes without a deferral period from donors with a history of male-sex-with-male behaviour.

For other tissues to allow donation 12 months after last male-sex-with-male sexual contact.

3. Female sexual partners of men who have sex with men

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Male partner has had oral or anal sex with another man, even if a condom or other protective was used.

Discretionary

1. Pancreatic islets and hepatocytes:

Current practice for donor selection is similar to that for solid organs and their acceptance is patient specific. There is no specific restriction regarding MSM behaviour but individual risk/benefit assessment is required.

\Continued

2. Other tissues/cells:

If 12 months or more from last sexual contact, accept.

See if relevant

Tissue Safety Entry

Additional Information

The guidance has been changed in line with recommendations from the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO). The recommendations have been noted by the English Department of Health and the devolved authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Men who have sex with other men have a higher chance of having an undiagnosed infection which could be passed to their female partner. Waiting twelve months from the last sexual contact helps to ensure that the infections tested for by the Blood Services will be picked up.

Reason for Change

To allow the collection of pancreatic islets and hepatocytes without a deferral period from donors who's partner has a history of male-sex-with-male behaviour

To allow donation 12 months after partner's last male-sex-with-male sexual contact

Sheila MacLennan

Dr Sheila MacLennan

Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee

☎ Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638

✉ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk