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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 37 - 2014

Homosexual and Bisexual Individuals

Applies to the Live 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	If 12 months or more from the last oral or anal sexual contact with another man, accept
See if relevant	<u>Tissue Safety Entry</u>
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

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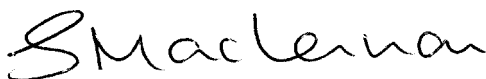
blood, tissues or cells. During 2012 and 2013, SaBTO commissioned a subgroup to review the donor selection criteria and risks associated with the donation of tissues and cells by men who have had sex with men.

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 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	If 12 months or more from the last sexual contact with a man who has ever had sex with another man, accept. There are exceptions so please ask.
See if relevant	<u>Tissue Safety Entry</u>
Additional Information	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. There may be exceptions for female partners of men who have had sex with men. They may be allowed to donate on the basis of an individual risk assessment.
Reason for Change	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.



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