

Date of publication: 30th October 2017

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 39 - 2017

This change applies to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines for England, Scotland and Wales. Please see separate entry for Northern Ireland.

Homosexual and Bisexual Individuals

Please replace the current entry with the text below.

(Section 1 – Female is unchanged)

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 ~~42~~ **three** months or more from the last oral or anal sexual contact with another man, accept

See if Relevant

Blood Safety Entry

Additional Information

Following publication of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria report 2017 the deferral period ~~for men who have sex with men, sex with a person who has received money or drugs for sex, someone who has received money or drugs for sex, sex with a partner~~

~~resident and sexually active in a high risk area, sex with a partner who was previously resident and sexually active in a high risk area for HIV/AIDS and who has not been screened by the blood service, sex with a high risk partner (i.e. with HIV, HBC, HCV, syphilis, HTLV, person who has injected or been injected with non-medically prescribed drugs)~~ has been reduced to three months. This review considered advances in the sensitivity of testing procedures currently in use in the UK, the prevalence of transfusion transmissible infections and the ~~current~~ level of compliance with the ~~current~~ previous 12 month exclusion for donors at higher risk of blood borne infections. The ~~recommendations were approved by SaBTO and by the English Department of Health and the devolved authorities in Scotland, and Wales.~~

~~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. During 2010 and 2011, SaBTO commissioned a subgroup to review the donor selection criteria and risks associated with blood donation 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, and the current level of compliance with the permanent exclusion. 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. The recommendations were approved by SaBTO and by the English Department of Health and the devolved authorities in Scotland, and Wales.~~

Information

This is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.

Reason for change

~~Removal of the reference to Homosexual and Bisexual Individuals – N.I.~~

This entry was updated in line with the recommendations of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Review Report published on 23rd July 2017.

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~~ **three** 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

Blood Safety Entry

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~~ **three** 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.

Information

This is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.

Update Information

This entry was last updated in:
DSG-WB Edition **XX**, Release **xx**

Reason for change

~~Removal of the reference to Homosexual
and Bisexual Individuals – N.I.~~

This entry was updated in line with the
recommendations of the SaBTO Donor
Selection Criteria Review Report published
on 23rd July 2017.

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