

Issued by JPAC: 10 April 2018

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 10 2018

Hepatitis E

These changes apply to all the Tissue and Cells Donor Selection Guidelines.

Please make the following changes to the entry:

Infection

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than ~~12~~ 6 months from recovery.

Discretionary

If less than 6 months from recovery and HEV RNA negative and anti HEV IgG positive, accept.

See if Relevant

Travel

Additional Information

~~Hepatitis E is similar to Hepatitis A in the way that it is spread (faecal-oral route and sewage-contaminated food and water). It can affect non-human animals and has been found in pigs in the UK. There have been reports of transmission by transfusion.~~

Hepatitis E is an infectious hepatitis that is usually spread through contaminated food or water. Infection may be associated with travel to countries with poor hygiene/sewage conditions but increasingly, cases of hepatitis E are being identified in the UK usually due to consumption of undercooked contaminated meat. Hepatitis E can affect non-human animals and has been found in pigs in the UK. There have been reports of transmission by transfusion and transplant. Infection in healthy individuals is often symptom free but in people with underlying problems in their immune systems it can be serious and occasionally fatal. The Blood Services currently test for this infection.

Reason for Change

The obligatory deferral has been reduced from 12 to 6 months and a discretion to accept on full recovery added. Additional Information has been updated. The deferral for household and sexual contacts has been removed.

\Continued

Person Sharing Home

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

~~Less than 12 months from recovery of last affected person in the home.~~

Sexual Partner of Confirmed Cases

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

~~Less than 12 months from recovery of partner.~~

SmacLennan

Dr Sheila MacLennan

Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee

☎ Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638

✉ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk