

Date of publication: 30th October 2017

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 26 - 2017

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

Blood Safety Entry

Please replace the current Blood Safety entry with the text below.

Obligatory

Information must be provided so that individuals at risk do not donate. The reasons for donor self-exclusion must be understood.

1. You must not donate if:

You think you need a test for HIV/AIDS, HTLV or hepatitis.

2. You must never donate if:

- a) You are HIV positive.
- b) You are HTLV positive.
- c) You are a hepatitis B carrier.
- d) You are a hepatitis C carrier.
- ~~e) You have ever received money or drugs for sex.~~
- f) **e) You have ever injected, or been injected with, drugs; even a long time ago or only once. This includes bodybuilding drugs and injectable tanning agents. You may be able to give if a doctor prescribed the drugs. Please ask.**

3. You must not donate for at least three months if:

You are working as a sex worker. You may be accepted for donation if it is longer than three months since you last received money or drugs for sex.

~~3.~~ **4. You must not donate for at least 12 **three** months after sex (even if you used a condom or other protective) with:**

- a) (If you are a man): another man.
- b) (If you are a woman): A man who has ever had oral or anal sex with another man, even if they used a condom or other protective. There are exceptions, so please ask.

~~4.~~ **5. You must not donate for at least 12 **three** months after sex (even if you used a condom or other protective) with:**

A partner who is, or you think may be:

- a) HIV or HTLV positive.
- b) A hepatitis B carrier.
- c) A hepatitis C carrier.
- d) A partner who has ever received money or drugs for sex.
- e) A partner who has ever injected, or been injected with, drugs: even a long time ago or only once. This includes bodybuilding drugs **and injectable tanning agents**. You may be able to give if a doctor prescribed the drugs. Please ask.
- f) A partner who has, or you think may have been, sexually active, in parts of the world where HIV/AIDS is very common. This includes most countries in Africa. There are exceptions, so please ask.

See if Relevant

Addiction and Drug Abuse
Hepatitis B
Hepatitis C
HIV
Homosexual and Bisexual Individuals
HTLV
Infection - General

Additional information

Following the publication of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Report 2017 the deferral period for most risks in this category has been reduced from 12 to three months. In addition the permanent deferral of sex workers has been changed to three months. ~~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 level of compliance with the permanent 12 month exclusion for donors at higher risk of blood borne infections that has been in effect until now. 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.

There may be exceptions for female partners of men who have ever had sex with men. They may be allowed to donate on the basis of an individual risk assessment.

'Blood Safety Leaflet Information' is available in the 'Document Library' of 'www.transfusionguidelines.org'.

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

Reason for change:

This entry was updated in line with the recommendations of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Review Report published

on 23rd July 2017. ~~Removal of the reference to Blood and Tissues Safety Entry N.I.~~

Update Information

This entry was last updated in **TBC**

SmacLennan

Dr Sheila MacLennan
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee
☎ Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638 ✉ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk