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**Implementation:** To be determined by each Service

## **Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 8 - 2012**

# **Psoriasis**

### **Applies to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines only**

**Obligatory**

**Must not donate if:**

- a) Has ever taken etretinate (Tigason®).
- b) Less than 24 months from the last dose of acitretin (Neotigason®).
- c) Less than 12 months from the last dose of any treatment that may affect the immune system.
- d) Generalized or severe.
- e) There is secondary infection.

**Discretionary**

If mild, the venepuncture site is unaffected and only using topical treatment, accept.

**See**

Autoimmune Disease

**Additional Information**

Psoriasis is primarily a skin condition caused by an autoimmune process. Sometimes the disease is treated with powerful drugs and/or ultraviolet radiation to suppress the underlying autoimmune process. This may be with treatment with PUVA, methotrexate, ciclosporin, hydroxycarbamide etc. and this may alter the body's defence mechanisms to infection. In such cases donations should not be taken for at least 12 months after such treatment has finished.


Etretinate (Tigason®) and acitretin (Neotigason®) can cause birth defects in babies exposed to them while inside the womb. It is important to allow time for the drug to be cleared from the blood of a donor. It takes longer to clear some drugs than others.


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**Reason for Change** There has been an increase in the deferral period after using acitretin (Neotigason®) from 12 to 24 months.

*Sheila MacLennan*

**Dr Sheila MacLennan**  
**Professional Director - Joint UKBTS/HPA Professional Advisory Committee**

 Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638

 [sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk)