

Date of publication: 13 April 2011

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 1 - 2011

Pregnancy (applies to female donors only)

Applies to the Whole Blood and Component Donor Selection Guidelines only

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

- a) Pregnant.
- b) Less than 6 months have passed since delivery or termination.
- c) Resulted in a malignant (invasive) hydatidiform mole.
- d) Resulted in a non-malignant (non-invasive) hydatidiform mole and treatment and follow up is ongoing.

Discretionary

If the pregnancy ended before the 12th week of pregnancy without significant blood loss and it is agreed by a Physician member of the designated clinical support, accept.

See if Relevant

Anaemia - Discretionary 1. Iron deficiency
Malignancy
Surgery
Transfusion
Trying to Conceive

Additional Information

During pregnancy, particularly in the later part, a woman loses a considerable amount of iron to the baby. It is important to allow time for this lost iron to be replaced through the mother's diet. Donating during pregnancy will make it very likely that the pregnant woman will become short of iron and this may lead to anaemia and even threaten the pregnancy. Iron usage in pregnancy occurs mostly between 12 and 35 weeks either to increase the number of red cell of the mother, or for the growth of the baby (after 30 weeks). Pregnancies of less than 12 weeks have little impact on the mother's iron stores. However if there was significant bleeding due to a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy a full 6 months from the date of this event is advisable before the lady donates.

A mother can donate if she is still breast-feeding, provided that a longer period than 6 months from delivery has passed.

[\Continued](#)

If a woman is trying to become pregnant they can donate if they have not missed a period and are not under investigation or on infertility treatment. If they are on treatment or under investigation for infertility see the link for 'Trying to Conceive'.

Hydatidiform moles may be malignant. If they are, the woman will not be able to donate. In other cases it is important for treatment and follow up to be completed so that the possibility of malignancy is excluded.

Part of this entry is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations (BSQR) 2005.

Reason for Change Guidance on pregnancy has been reviewed in line with requirements of BSQR 2005.


Further information


The supporting paper, JPAC 11-04 Recommendations on a change to the Donor Selection Guidance for Pregnancy, leading to this Change Notification can be found in the Document Library/Supporting Papers of the JPAC website:

<http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/Index.aspx?Publication=DL&Section=12&pageid=7528>

Sheila MacLennan

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

 Direct Dial: (0113) 214 8638

 sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk