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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 14 - 2010

Reinstatement of 'non-specific' reactive tissue donors

Applies to the Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the United Kingdom 7th Edition 2005

Addendum 2007 Replacement Chapters 21 to 24 Human Tissues and Cells

Tissue donors can be reinstated if a sample is repeatedly reactive in any of the microbiological screening assays performed but subsequently determined negative for evidence of the infection in question on confirmatory testing in a recognized reference laboratory. The initial reactivity in the screening assay is due to non-specific reactivity and any tissue products from this donation may be safely issued for clinical use. This will require the following changes.

22.7 Testing of deceased donors (penultimate paragraph)

Please delete: Repeatedly reactive screening tests from post-mortem samples will debar tissues from release unless a superior sample can be obtained,

Replace with: For post-mortem samples, concluded test results other than negative will debar tissues from release unless a superior sample can be obtained,

22.11 Release criteria (1st paragraph)

Please delete: For allogeneic donors the results of all screening tests, with the exception of syphilis and anti-HBc, must be negative for a tissue to be released from quarantine for issue.

Replace with: For allogeneic donors the concluded result of all microbiological assays, with the exception of syphilis and anti-HBc, must be negative for a tissue to be released from quarantine for issue. For donors who are found to be 'repeat reactive' in any screening assay but for whom subsequent testing confirms lack of infection, the initial reactivity in the screening assay is due to non-specific reactivity and any tissue products from this donation may be safely released for clinical use.

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22.11 Release criteria (3rd paragraph)

Please delete: Donors with reactive screening tests for the presence of treponemal infection should be fully assessed, taking into account the results of confirmatory (reference) testing and medical history. Allogeneic donors are considered to be eligible if their screening test results are reactive but confirmatory tests are negative. However, the presence of current (active) infection will exclude the use of tissues from such donors.


Replace with: Donors with reactive confirmatory tests for the presence of treponemal infection should be fully assessed, taking into account the results of confirmatory (reference) testing and medical history. The presence of current (active) infection will exclude the use of tissues from such donors.


Further information: The supporting paper, JPAC 10-65 Reinstatement of 'non-specific' reactive tissue donors, 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>

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