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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 19 - 2014

Autoimmune Disease

Applies to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines only

Obligatory	Must not donate if: a) The donor has needed treatment to suppress the condition in the last 12 months. b) The cardiovascular system is involved.
Discretionary	If donor is being treated with Sulfasalazine or Hydroxychloroquine as maintainance treatment for Rheumatoid Arthritis only and has no associated cardiovascular disease, accept
See if Relevant	Cardiovascular Disease Disabled Donor Drug Index - preparations which may affect platelet function Inflammatory Bowel Disease Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs Thrombosis Trying to Conceive If treated with transfusion, immunoglobulin, plasma exchange or filtration: Transfusion
Additional Information	Treatment to suppress the condition may be with steroids, immunosuppressive drugs, antimetabolites, antibodies directed against parts of the immune system as well as other therapies such as PUVA (psoralen plus ultraviolet A). These will affect the donor's immune system. This may make the donor more susceptible to certain types of infection and also will make some infections more difficult to diagnose. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and Sulfasalazine and Hydroxychloroquine, are treatments which do not affect the donor's immune system in this way. If Sulfasalazine and Hydroxychloroquine are used as maintainance treatment for Rheumatoid Arthritis only and donor fits the rest of the criteria they may be accepted.

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Physical therapies such as physiotherapy and hydrotherapy are not considered treatments to suppress the condition.

Autoimmune disease can cause problems such as infertility and thrombosis (antiphospholipid or Hughes' syndrome).

Some autoimmune conditions can permanently damage the cardiovascular system. If this is known to have happened, the person should not donate as they are more likely to have a serious adverse event.

Reason for Change Discretion has been added regarding use of medications and other therapies.



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