



Northern Ireland
BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE



National
Institute for
Biological
Standards and
Control



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Endoscopy

Applies to the Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines – Deceased Donors only

I am writing to inform you of a correction to the Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines – Deceased Donors. During the recent updating of the tissue and cell donor guidelines a new entry of endoscopy was included. This entry is not relevant to deceased tissue donors and is to be removed from these donor selection guidelines with immediate effect.

Additional information

The Commission Directive 2004/33/EC for blood and blood components (Annex III section 2.2.2) states that *donors who have undergone endoscopic examination using a flexible instrument should be deferred for six months, or four months provided a NAT test for hepatitis C is negative.*

Endoscopy is not mentioned in Commission Directive 2006/17/EC for human tissues and cells. Annex I Section 1.1.6 states "*History, clinical evidence, or laboratory evidence of HIV, acute or chronic hepatitis B (except in the case of persons with a proven immune status), hepatitis C and HTLV I/II, transmission risk or evidence of risk factors for these infections*" should be excluded.

On June 26th 2008, JPAC, on the basis of a recent review of the published literature, concluded that this exclusion could not be justified for deceased donors on the basis of a risk of viral transmission by endoscopy.

Dr Brian McClelland
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS/NIBSC Professional Advisory Committee

☎ Direct Dial: (0131) 536 6002

✉ E-mail: Brian.McClelland@snbts.csa.scot.nhs.uk