Change Notification UK National Blood Services  No. 32 - 2018

**Sex Change Transgender Individuals**

Applies to the Cell and Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines for Deceased Tissue Donors, Live Tissue Donors, and Bone Marrow & Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Donors

1. Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines - Deceased & Live Tissue Donors

Please make the following changes to the entry:

**Obligatory**

Assessment of the donor suitability should be according to the gender assigned.

**Discretionary**

Obtain history and refer to designated medical officer if necessary

**See if Relevant**

[Tissue Safety Leaflet](#)
[Homosexual and bisexual individuals](#)
[Surgery](#)

**Additional Information**

A careful and sympathetic consideration of sexual risk factors needs to be undertaken. Men who have sex with other men have a higher chance of having an undiagnosed infection which could be passed to anyone receiving their blood, tissues or cells.

Consideration should be given to the medications used during gender re-assignment

**Reason for Change**

To change the title of the entry from ‘Sex Change’ to ‘Transgender Individuals’ and simplify the contents.

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2. Bone Marrow and Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Donor Selection Guidelines

Discretionary

Accept

See if Relevant

Tissues Safety Entry
Homosexual and Bisexual Individuals
Surgery

Additional Information

A careful and sympathetic consideration of sexual risk factors needs to be undertaken. There is no specific restriction regarding donation for male-sex-with-male behaviour, but it should be documented to facilitate an in depth discussion should the donor be a potential match for a patient. This ensures that the current practice of individual risk/benefit assessment prior to donation is continued.

The guidance has been changed in line with recommendations from the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO). The recommendations have been noted by the English Department of Health and the devolved authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Assessment of haemoglobin concentration should be according to the gender assigned. The higher haemoglobin concentration of men, compared to women, is related to testosterone levels. As part of the gender reassignment process the sex hormone levels are changed so that a woman who becomes a man will receive testosterone. This will result in the haemoglobin concentration rising to the higher range seen in men. The opposite will be true if a man becomes a woman.

Reason for Change

To change the title of the entry from ‘Sex Change’ to ‘Transgender Individuals’. The discretionary section has been simplified.

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