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**Implementation:** To be determined by each Service

## **Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 34 - 2014**

# **Homosexual and Bisexual Individuals**

## **Applies to the Bone Marrow and PBSC Donor Selection Guidelines**

**Please modify the entry as follows:**

### **1. Female**

**Discretionary**

Accept

**Additional Information**

There is no evidence that there is an increased risk of sexually transmitted infections in homosexual or bisexual females compared to heterosexual females.

**Reason for Change**

This is a new entry, combining the previous entries for 'Homosexual' and 'Bisexual' individuals. 'Additional Information' has been added.

### **2. Male**

**Discretionary**

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.

**See if relevant**

Tissue Safety Entry

**Additional Information**

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.

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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. During 2012 and 2013, SaBTO commissioned a subgroup to review the donor selection criteria and risks associated with the donation of tissues and cells by men who have had sex with men.

This review considered advances in the sensitivity of testing procedures currently in use in the UK, the prevalence of transfusion transmissible infections in men who have had sex with men, the current level of compliance with the donor selection guidelines and, where applicable, the additional processes used to reduce the risk of transmission of viral infection. This review recommended that the deferral for men who have had sex with men should be removed for potential stem cell donors.

**Reason for Change** To remove the restriction regarding donation for donors with a history of male-sex-with-male behaviour

### 3. Female sexual partners of men who have sex with men

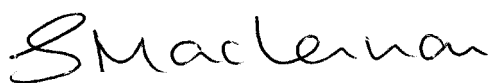
**Discretionary** There is no specific restriction regarding donation for females with a male partner who has had a history of male-sex-with-male behaviour, but it should be documented to facilitate an in depth discussion should the donor be a potential match for a patient. This ensures that the current practice of individual risk/benefit assessment prior to donation is continued.

**See if relevant** Tissue Safety Entry

**Additional Information** Men who have sex with other men have a higher chance of having an undiagnosed infection, which could be passed to their female partner. During 2012 and 2013, SaBTO commissioned a subgroup to review the donor selection criteria and risks associated with the donation of tissues and cells by men who have had sex with men.

This review considered advances in the sensitivity of testing procedures currently in use in the UK, the prevalence of transfusion transmissible infections in men who have had sex with men, the current level of compliance with the donor selection guidelines and, where applicable, the additional processes used to reduce the risk of transmission of viral infection. This review recommended that the 12 month deferral for females who have a male partner with a history of male-sex-with-male behaviour should be removed for potential stem cell donors.

**Reason for Change** To remove the 12 month deferral regarding donation for donors who have a male partner with a history of male-sex-with-male behaviour.



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