

Issued by JPAC: 25 January 2022

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 35 - 2021

Allergy

These changes apply to the Whole Blood and Component Donor Selection Guidelines

Please make the following changes to the entry:

<i>Includes:</i>	Allergic rhinitis, antihistamines , allergic conjunctivitis, anaphylaxis, hay fever and urticaria.
<i>Obligatory:</i>	<p>Ensure: Procedures will not expose the donor to something they are allergic to, e.g. iodine, lidocaine (previously known as lignocaine), constituents of the arm cleaning preparation.</p> <p>Must not donate if:</p> <p>a) Has severe symptoms due to an allergy or to the medication they are taking.</p> <p>b) The donor has taken oral or injected steroids within the last seven days.</p>
<i>Discretionary:</i>	<p>a) Donors taking medication, other than oral or injected steroids (including antihistamines, eye drops or intranasal steroids e.g. beclometasone (Beconase®)), or with a history of allergy or anaphylaxis (including those who carry adrenaline/epinephrine for self administration, e.g. Anapen® or EpiPen®), provided they are well on the day and will not be exposed to anything they are allergic to, accept.</p> <p>b) Nickel allergy, accept.</p> <p>c) Donors undergoing desensitisation treatment for hay fever or for allergy to an insect sting, providing they are not experiencing any systemic or local reactions to the treatment, and are well on the day, accept.</p>
<i>See if Relevant:</i>	<p>Asthma</p> <p>Celiac Disease</p> <p>Dermatitis</p> <p>Steroid Therapy</p>

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<i>Additional Information:</i>	<p>Any person who is unwell should not be accepted as a donor. This is to ensure that a serious underlying condition, that could be a risk either to the donor or to a potential recipient, is not missed. For this reason, a potential donor with anything other than minor symptoms related to an allergy or to its treatment, should not be accepted.</p> <p>Severe systemic reactions are not seen with nickel 'allergy'.</p>
<i>Reason for change:</i>	<p>The entry has been modified to clarify when donors with allergy may be accepted. The previous 72 hour deferral following desensitization treatment has been removed.</p> <p>A link has been added to 'Coeliac Disease'.</p> <p>The list of potential allergens has been reworded. A reference to allergic conjunctivitis has been added. Clarification of the acceptance criteria for desensitisation treatment has been added. The link to 'Coeliac Disease' has been removed.</p>

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