

Date of publication: 2nd November 2017

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 40 - 2017

These changes apply to the individual Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines as stated below.

Homosexual and Bisexual Individuals

1. Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines – Deceased Donors

Please make the changes shown in red to the 'discretionary', 'additional information' and 'reason for change sections' as below.

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.

Male

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Has had oral or anal sex with another man **in the last 3 months**, even if a condom or other protective was used.

Discretionary

1. Pancreatic islets and hepatocytes:

Current practice for donor selection is similar to that for solid organs and their acceptance is patient specific. There is no specific restriction regarding male-sex-with-male (MSM) behaviour but individual risk/benefit assessment is required.

2. Other tissues:

One of four possible scenarios may apply:

a) Family / next of kin / GP / hospital not aware of any MSM activity.

No evidence of MSM activity: **accept**

b). Male known by family / next of kin / GP / hospital to have engaged in MSM activity in the past, but known to have had no MSM sexual activity in previous **3 months: accept**.

c) Male known by family / next of kin / GP / hospital to be engaged in MSM activity and is presumed/known to be sexually active in the **3 months** before death: **not eligible to donate**.

d) Male known by family / next of kin / GP / hospital to have engaged in MSM activity in the past. Family unaware of date of last MSM activity: **not eligible to donate**.

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), 2017. 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 level of compliance with the 12 month exclusion for those donors at higher risk of blood borne infections and, where applicable, the additional processes used to reduce the risk of transmission of viral infection. This review recommended that the deferral period for men who have had sex with men should be reduced to 3 months after last sexual contact. This guidance presumes that a validated NAT test for HIV, HBV and HCV is negative, if this test is stopped for any reason the guidance will change.

Reason for Change

This entry was updated in line with the recommendations of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Review Report published on 23rd July 2017.

Female sexual partners of men who have sex with men

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Male partner has had oral or anal sex with another man, even if a condom or other protective was used.

Discretionary

1. Pancreatic islets and hepatocytes:

Current practice for donor selection is similar to that for solid organs and their acceptance is patient specific. There is no specific restriction regarding MSM behaviour but individual risk/benefit assessment is required.

2. Other tissues/cells:

If 3 months or more from the last sexual contact with a man who has ever had sex with another man, accept.

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. Waiting 3 months from the last sexual contact helps to ensure that the infections tested for by the Blood Services will be picked up.

Reason for Change

This entry was updated in line with the recommendations of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Review Report published on 23rd July 2017.

2. Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines – Live Donors

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.

Male

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Has had oral or anal sex with another man **in the last 3 months**, even if a condom or other protective was used.

Discretionary

If **3 months** or more from the last oral or anal sexual contact with another man, accept

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), 2017. 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 level of compliance with the 12 month exclusion for those donors at higher risk of blood borne infections and, where applicable, the additional processes used to reduce the risk of transmission of

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Female sexual partners of men who have sex with men

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Male partner has had oral or anal sex with another man, even if a condom or other protective was used.

Discretionary

If 3 months or more from the last sexual contact with a man who has ever had sex with another man, accept.

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.

Waiting 3 months from the last sexual contact helps to ensure that the infections tested for by the Blood Services will be picked up.

Reason for Change

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Update Information

This entry was last updated in
TBC

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