

**Date of publication:** 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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

## Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 41 - 2017

This change applies to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines for England, Scotland and Wales. For Northern Ireland see separate entry.

### HTLV

Please replace the current section 2 with the text below.

(Sections 1 – Affected Individual and Section 3 - Person Currently or Formerly Sharing a Home with an Affected Individual are unchanged)

#### **2. Current or Former Sexual Partner of Affected Individual**

*Obligatory*

**Must not donate if:**

Less than ~~12~~ **three** months from the last sexual contact.

*See if Relevant*

Blood Safety Entry

*Additional Information*

HTLV infection can be spread through sexual activity. It may however not be transmitted for a long time into a relationship. This could be because the infection becomes more active in the infected partner, the uninfected partner acquires another infection or an injury to a mucous membrane, or there is a change in the use of, or failure of, barrier contraceptives (condoms etc.). In the early stages of infection the testing used by the Blood Services may not detect the virus allowing it to be passed on by transfusion.

Waiting ~~12~~ **three** months from the last sexual contact will ensure that any infection is picked up by the tests used by the Blood Services. There is no defined infectious window period for HTLV.

*Information*

This is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.

*Update Information*

This entry was last updated in:  
DSG-WB Edition xxx, Release xx.

*Reason for change*

~~The entries for 'Current' and 'Former Sexual Partner' have been combined.~~

~~'Additional Information' has been added.~~  
This entry was updated in line with the recommendations of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Review Report published on 23rd July 2017.

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