

Issued by JPAC: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

## Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 43 - 2022

### Addiction and Drug Abuse

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

Please amend the following entry.

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| <i>Includes</i>      | Alcohol, body building drugs and injected non-prescribed drugs.  |
| <i>Obligatory</i>    | <p><b>Must not donate if:</b></p> <p>a) Has ever injected, or has been injected with, drugs; even a long time ago or only once. This includes bodybuilding drugs, injected tanning agents and injected chemsex drugs.</p> <p>b) Adversely affected by any drug, including alcohol, which may affect the process of obtaining valid consent. <del>This may be until the next session, or permanently, if the donor's behaviour is likely to constitute a hazard to other donors or to staff.</del></p> <p>c) Less than seven days from taking disulfiram (Antabuse®).</p> |
| <i>Discretionary</i> | <p>a) <del>If May be acceptable if</del> any injected drugs were prescribed <del>by for</del> the donor's <del>physician</del> by a registered health care professional for a condition that would not lead to exclusion, <del>accept</del>.</p> <p><del>b) Previous use of non-injected drugs does not necessarily require exclusion.</del></p> <p><del>e</del>b) If the donor is taking medication to support their abstinence from alcohol or other non-injected drugs and</p>  |

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|                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• they are not adversely affected by drugs, including alcohol, and</li> <li>• they understand and consent to the donation process and testing of their blood, accept.</li> </ul>  |
| See if Relevant        | <p><a href="#">Blood Safety Entry</a></p> <p><b>For alcohol related problems:</b><br/><b>Cirrhosis</b></p>   |
| Additional Information | <p>Injecting drug users represent one of the groups of individuals within whom emerging infections have spread before they have been recognized. This was the case with HIV and HCV infection. Because of this, the <a href="#">law BSQR</a> requires that they are permanently excluded from becoming donors. It can be many years before any infection shows itself. Former drug users often do not realize that they can pass infection on to others many years after they last used drugs themselves.</p> <p><a href="#">Previous use of non-injected drugs does not necessarily require exclusion.</a></p> <p>Anyone obviously affected by alcohol, or other drugs that can affect the mind, cannot give valid consent or fully understand why they are being asked certain questions. They can be a danger to themselves and to others. <a href="#">If the donor is deferred, this may be until the next session, or permanently, if the donor's use of alcohol and/or drugs is likely to continue.</a></p> <p>Disulfiram (Antabuse®) may cause severe reactions in a recipient whose blood contains alcohol.</p> <p><a href="#">Other medications such as Acamprosate (Campral®) or Naltrexone may be prescribed to support abstinence from alcohol or drug use. If the donor is well and their alcohol or drug use has not caused any end-organ damage, then they can be accepted to donate.</a></p> |
| Information            | <p>Part of this entry is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.</p>   |

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| <i>Reason for change</i> | <p><del>Updated as part of the implementation of recommendations from the FAIR study; specific references to injected tanning agents and injected chemsex drugs have been added to the obligatory section.</del> This entry has been revised to include guidance on the acceptance of donors who are prescribed medication to support their abstinence from alcohol. Other revisions to clarify the text.</p> |
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