

Issued by JPAC: 30 th August 2022	Implementation: To be determined by each Service
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Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 48 - 2022

Hepatitis of Unknown Cause

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

Please amend the following entry.

1. Person with Hepatitis of Unknown Cause	
<i>Obligatory</i>	Must not donate.
2. Person with previous (recovered) Hepatitis of Unknown Cause	
<i>Definitions</i>	<p>HBV: Hepatitis B virus</p> <p>HBsAg: Hepatitis B surface antigen</p> <p>Anti-HBs: Antibody against hepatitis B surface antigen</p> <p>Anti-HBc: Antibody against hepatitis B core antigen</p>
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>Must not donate if:</p> <p>Less than 24 months from recovery.</p>
<i>Discretionary</i>	<p>a) If more than 12 months and less than 24 months from recovery, and either all markers i.e. HbsAg, individual HBV DNA if carried out and Anti-HBc HB core antibody (anti-HBs is not required) are negative, or HB core antibody positive, HBsAg negative, screening HBV DNA (if carried out) negative and anti-HBs has been documented at more than 100 iu/l at some time, accept.</p> <p>b) If more than 24 months from recovery, accept.</p>
See if Relevant	Travel
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>Most hepatitis of unknown origin will have been due to hepatitis A or hepatitis E (or non-viral causes). Additional testing for those who give a history of hepatitis between</p>

	<p>12 and 24 months before donation will exclude the rare case of HBV which may have delayed clearance of infection and therefore will still present a risk through donation.</p> <p>Additional testing for those who give a history of hepatitis between 12 and 24 months previously ensures anti-HBc testing is carried out, to exclude hepatitis B infection.</p> <p>After 24 months, donation testing for anti-HBc will be carried out routinely, as it will be at least two years since the donor last gave a blood donation or samples for testing by the transfusion service. These guidelines will be revised if policy for anti-HBc testing changes.</p>
<i>Reason for change</i>	<p>Clarification has been added regarding testing required to accept between 12 and 24 months from recovery</p> <p>The Discretionary and Additional Information sections have been updated to reflect SaBTO recommendations for anti-HBc testing of blood donors.</p>
<p>3. Current or Former Sexual Partner of person with Hepatitis of Unknown Cause</p>	
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>Must not donate if: Less than 12 months from recovery of current sexual partner, or from last sexual contact if a former sexual partner.</p>
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>The 12-month deferral period is to avoid transmission of any infection through transfusion</p>
<i>Reason for change</i>	<p>'Additional Information' has been added. The title has been clarified to include both current and former sexual partners.</p>
<p>4. Person Currently or Formerly Sharing a Home with a person with Hepatitis of Unknown Cause</p>	
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>Must not donate if: Less than 12 months from recovery of the last affected person in the home, or from the last contact if no longer sharing. -</p>
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>The 12-month deferral period is to avoid transmission of any infection through transfusion.</p>
<i>Reason for change</i>	<p>'Additional Information' has been added. The title has been clarified to include donors who formerly shared a home, as well as those who currently share a home with an affected individual.</p>
<p>3. Household or Sexual Contact of someone with Hepatitis of Unknown Cause</p>	

<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>a) Must not donate if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 12 months from last household or sexual contact; or • if ongoing household or sexual contact, less than 12 months from recovery of the sexual or household contact <p>b) If the household or sexual contact is thought to have had hepatitis B infection, refer to the Hepatitis B entry</p>
<i>See if relevant</i>	Hepatitis B
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>The 12-month deferral period is to avoid transmission of any infection through transfusion.</p> <p>There are different rules for contact with someone who has had hepatitis B. These should be followed if the donor reports that a household or sexual contact was most likely to have had hepatitis B.</p>
<i>Reason for change</i>	The guidance for household and sexual contacts has been merged into one section and a reference to the Hepatitis B entry has been added.



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