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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 5 - 2005

Transfusion

Change to be applied to Donor Selection Guidelines DSG202.

The boxed text indicates where changes have been made.

Obligatory: Must not donate if:

Treated with blood derived coagulation factor concentrates. This includes prothrombin complex to reverse over-anticoagulation.

Before January 1st 1980, the donor has:
Received, or thinks they may have received, a transfusion outside of Western Europe, North America, Australia or New Zealand.

Since January 1st 1980, anywhere in the world, the donor has:
Received, or thinks they may have received, a transfusion with red cells, platelets, fresh frozen plasma (FFP), cryoprecipitate, intravenous or subcutaneous human normal immunoglobulin. This includes mothers whose babies have required intra-uterine transfusion.

Had a plasma exchange performed.

Discretionary: Autologous Transfusion in the United Kingdom:
If only the donor's own blood has been used, accept.

Donor transfused before January 1st 1980:
If the donor received, or thinks they may have received, a transfusion outside of Western Europe, North America, Australia or New Zealand check the Travel Index (Appendix 1) to see if the country is a risk area for malaria and/or South American Trypanosomiasis. If transfused in an at risk country and a validated malarial antibody test and/or (as appropriate) a validated test for T.cruzi antibody is negative, accept.

If the transfusion was not within a risk area for either malaria or South American Trypanosomiasis, accept.



If on medical inquiry it is unlikely that the donor has been transfused, accept.

See if relevant: Bleeding Disorder
Immunoglobulin Therapy
Immunosuppression

Malaria
South American Trypanosomiasis Risk

Additional Information:

Transfused donors have previously contributed to the spread of some diseases. This happened with hepatitis C.

Coagulation concentrates:

People who have received blood derived coagulation concentrates (these are made from the blood of many donors) may have been put at risk of infections that can be passed through blood.

Donors transfused before 1980:

Transfusions outside of Western Europe, North America, Australia or New Zealand may have put the donor at risk of malaria or South American trypanosomiasis. It is necessary to exclude these infections before accepting the donor.

Donors transfused since 1980:

In the autumn of 2003 a UK recipient of blood, taken from a healthy donor who later developed vCJD, died from vCJD.

In the summer of 2004 the National CJD Surveillance Unit reported a second UK case of possible transfusion transmission of the abnormal prion associated with vCJD. This second patient received a blood transfusion in 1999 from a donor who later went on to develop vCJD. This recipient died of causes unrelated to vCJD but a post mortem examination revealed the vCJD agent in their spleen.

Although it can not be certain that the transfusions caused the problem in either recipient, it has been thought prudent to exclude blood donors transfused or possibly transfused since 1980. This date is before BSE, which is believed to have caused vCJD, was prevalent.

Reason for change:

As the number of countries affected by BSE continues to increase it has been decided to extend the exclusion of donors transfused since 1980 to anywhere in the world. This has enabled the guidance for donors transfused in countries where testing for infection may not have been to the same standards as within the UK to be simplified so that referral to a Designated Medical Officer is no longer required.



The guidance on autologous transfusion in the UK has been changed. The previous reason for deferring for 12 months was in case the donor received blood other than their own. Such an event now would require their permanent deferral. It is expected that with more up to date procedures the donor would be told if they receive blood other than their own.

Several other minor modifications have been made to clarify who is and is not affected by these changes.

The criteria on this page changed on 08/11/2005

Donor Information:

People who have received a blood transfusion anywhere in the world since 1st January 1980 are not able to donate blood. Transfusion before this date in countries other than Western Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand may require special restrictions and the donor should discuss this with their transfusion service.

If you wish to obtain more information regarding a personal medical issue please contact your local help line.

Please do not contact this web site for personal medical queries, as we are not in a position to provide individual answers.

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