

Change Notification for the UK Blood Transfusion Services

Date of Issue: 29 January 2024

Implementation: to be determined by each Service

No. 01 – 2024

Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19)

This notification includes the following changes:

| | BM-DSG Bone Marrow & Peripheral Blood Stem Cell | CB-DSG Cord Blood | GDRI Geographical Disease Risk Index | TD-DSG Tissue - Deceased Donors | TL-DSG Tissue - Live Donors | WB-DSG Whole Blood & Components | Red Book Guidelines for the BTS in the UK |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19) | ● | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |



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Chair of Standing Advisory Committee on Tissues & Cellular Therapy Products (SACTCTP)



Dr Stephen Thomas
Professional Director of JPAC

Changes are indicated using the key below. This formatting will not appear in the final entry.

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| original text | «inserted text» | deleted text |
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1 Changes apply to the **Bone Marrow & Peripheral Blood Stem Cell DSG**

Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19)

(revised entry)

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| <p><i>Additional Information</i></p> | <p>Common coronaviruses cause colds and respiratory tract infections but are not considered a risk for tissue transplant recipients. Since 2002 there have been outbreaks in humans of new strains of coronavirus, associated with severe pulmonary infections and mortality rates of 10-35% e.g. SARS and MERS.</p> <p>COVID-19 is an illness characterised by respiratory symptoms, including coughing and breathlessness, and fever. It is caused by infection with a newly identified Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. Its full pathogenesis remains unknown but individuals with certain underlying chronic conditions, the elderly and immunocompromised individuals are at risk of more severe disease.</p> <p>Some persons with SARS-CoV-2 infection may be asymptomatic. It is possible that they may have undergone testing for occupational health reasons (for example).</p> <p>Some individuals will have symptoms for a protracted length of time after the systemic and respiratory symptoms of the acute infection have resolved. A wide range of symptoms, including cardiac and neurological, have been reported. It is important to identify any of the specific ongoing symptoms such as chest pain, palpitations, shortness of breath, fatigue, even if seemingly mild or infrequent, that suggest that a donor may not have fully recovered to their pre-COVID-19 state of health, and that may put a donor at risk of an adverse event.</p> <p><i>NICE guidelines recommend that all bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell donors are tested for SARS-CoV-2 prior to donation. Please refer to the current NICE guidelines for up-to-date recommendations.</i></p> <p>There is no evidence at present that SARS-CoV-2 can be transmitted by tissue/cell transplantation.</p> <p>For Bone Marrow (HPC-M) donations, donation should be scheduled in accordance with current guidance from the Royal College of Surgeons and Association of Anaesthetists and in discussion with the collection centre.</p> |
| <p><i>Reason for Change</i></p> | <p>«Additional Information’ section updated following removal of NICE recommendation to test donors.»</p> <p><i>Delete outdated information in the definition section, and ‘additional information’ section. ‘Additional Information’ section updated to refer to current NICE guidelines for testing donors without symptoms or diagnosis of COVID-19.</i></p> |