

Change Notification for the UK Blood Transfusion Services

Date of Issue: 18 April 2024

Implementation: to be determined by each Service

No. 06 – 2024

Hepatitis A and Human Parvovirus B19

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. Hepatitis A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Human Parvovirus B19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Changes to the A-Z index	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Dr Angus Wells
Chair of Standing Advisory Committee on Care & Selection of Donors (SACCSD)



Dr Stephen Thomas
Professional Director of JPAC

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

original text	«inserted text»	deleted text
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1. Changes apply to the **Whole Blood & Components DSG**

Hepatitis A

(revised entry)

1. Affected Individual	
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>Must not donate if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> «less than 6 months from recovery of symptoms, and less than 6 months since the donor was diagnosed with hepatitis A infection following laboratory testing.» <p>Less than 6 months from recovery.</p>
<i>See if Relevant</i>	<u>Travel</u>
<i>Additional Information</i>	Hepatitis A is spread by the faecal-oral route and by sewage-contaminated food and water. It can also be spread sexually. There is no long-term infection with the virus but there are many reports of transmission by transfusion. Infection may be symptom free but can be serious and occasionally fatal. The Blood Services do not test for this infection.
<i>Reason for Change</i>	The discretionary acceptance on full recovery prior to 6 months has been removed.
2. Current or Former Sexual Partner of Affected Individual	
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>Must not donate if «less than 6 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> since a current sexual partner has recovered from symptoms of hepatitis A, or since a current sexual partner tested positive for hepatitis A RNA, or since last sexual contact with a former sexual partner who had hepatitis A.» <p>Less than 6 months from recovery of current sexual partner, or from last sexual contact if a former sexual partner.</p>
<i>Additional Information</i>	There is a risk of transmitting the infection through sexual activity. Infection may be symptom free but can be serious and occasionally fatal. The 6 month exclusion allows any infection to run its natural course and for any risk of passing the infection on through donation to have passed.
<i>Reason for Change</i>	The discretionary acceptance has been removed.

3. Person Currently or Formerly Sharing a Home with an Affected Individual	
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>Must not donate if «less than 6 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> from recovery of the last affected person in the home, or since a person sharing a home tested positive for hepatitis A RNA.» <p><i>Less than 6 months from recovery of the last affected person in the home, or from the last contact if no longer sharing.</i></p>
<i>Additional Information</i>	<i>Because hepatitis A is spread by the faecal – oral route household contacts may easily become infected. Infection may be symptom free but can be serious and occasionally fatal. The 6 month exclusion allows any infection to run its natural course and for any risk of passing the infection on through donation to have passed.</i>
<i>Reason for Change</i>	<i>The discretionary acceptance has been removed.</i>
4. Immunisation	
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>Known exposure:</p> <p>Must not donate if:</p> <p>Less than six months post the last known contact with the affected individual even if vaccine or intramuscular immunoglobulin was given.</p>
<i>Discretionary</i>	<p>No known exposure:</p> <p>Accept.</p>
<i>See if Relevant</i>	<p><u>Hepatitis B - 4. Immunisation</u></p> <p><u>Travel</u></p>
<i>Additional Information</i>	<i>Hepatitis A immunization is advised before travel to parts of the world where other infections relevant to donating such as malaria are common. The donor should be asked about any relevant travel history. Hepatitis A immunization may be combined with Hepatitis B immunization.</i>
<i>Reason for Change</i>	<i>The deferral period for immunization post known exposure has been reviewed following guidance from Public Health England.</i>
<i>Donor Information</i>	<p>If you wish to obtain more information regarding a personal medical issue please contact your <u>National Help Line</u>.</p> <p>Please do not contact this web site for personal medical queries, as we are not in a position to provide individual answers.</p>
<i>«Additional Information</i>	Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver, usually spread by the faecal -oral route or by sewage-contaminated food and water. It is rare in the UK with most cases occurring in people returning from travel to endemic countries.

	<p>Household contacts of cases are at risk of infection. It can also be spread sexually. Transfusion-transmitted infection is known to occur.</p> <p>Hepatitis A usually presents with malaise, fever and abdominal symptoms followed by the onset of jaundice, although some individuals may be asymptomatic. Most people recover after a few weeks but in a small number of cases, infection can lead to more severe liver disease and death. Hepatitis A does not cause long term infection. People who have recovered from hepatitis A have life-long immunity.</p> <p>Blood services may screen for hepatitis A infection using a test for hepatitis A virus RNA. Donors who are diagnosed with hepatitis A infection following blood donation screening or as part of an outbreak investigation must be deferred for 6 months, even if they do not have any symptoms of the disease. After 6 months, they can return to donate without further testing.</p> <p>Hepatitis A immunisation is often given before travel to parts of the world which also have a risk of infections such as malaria or tropical viruses. The donor's travel history should be checked if they have had hepatitis A vaccine.</p> <p>Hepatitis A immunisation is sometimes given in combination with hepatitis B immunisation. Refer to the Hepatitis B entry if necessary.</p>
<p><i>Reason for Change</i></p>	<p>The entry has been updated to include testing by blood services for hepatitis A virus. The layout has also been reorganised.»</p>

2. Changes apply to the **Whole Blood & Components DSG**

«Parvovirus B19»

(new entry)

<i>«Includes</i>	Human parvovirus; slapped cheek syndrome; erythema infectiosum; fifth disease.
1. Affected Individual	
<i>Obligatory</i>	Must not donate.
<i>Discretionary</i>	<p>If it is more than 4 weeks from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recovery from systemic symptoms (low-grade fever, malaise, headache, nasal discharge, abdominal pain, sore throat), and a positive result for parvovirus B19 DNA, if testing has been carried out, <p>accept.</p>
2. Close Contact with an Affected Individual	
<i>Obligatory</i>	<p>Must not donate if:</p> <p>Less than 3 weeks since contact with an individual with suspected or confirmed parvovirus B19 infection. This includes individuals diagnosed through blood donation screening.</p>
<i>Discretionary</i>	<p>a) If the donor has a definite past history of parvovirus B19 infection, accept.</p> <p>b) If more than 3 weeks since last contact with an individual with parvovirus B19 infection, accept.</p> <p>c) If any contact in the previous 3 weeks has only been with someone in the post-infectious phase, i.e. after the rash has appeared, accept.</p>
<i>See if Relevant</i>	<u>Infectious Diseases – Contact With</u>
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>Parvovirus B19 is a viral infection which occurs most commonly in children. The virus can be transmitted through droplet spread (respiratory), or from mother to baby, or via blood transfusion. Outbreaks of parvovirus B19 occur every 3 to 4 years during the late winter / early spring period. Following exposure, the incubation period is 14 to 21 days. Infection may be asymptomatic or may result in a mild self-limiting illness presenting with fever, malaise, upper respiratory tract symptoms and abdominal pain. Children often develop a bright red facial rash ('slapped cheek') one to two weeks later, followed after a few days by a light pink rash on the chest, stomach, arms and thighs. Adults have similar</p>

	<p>symptoms but are less likely to have a facial rash. Adults are also more likely to have joint pain (polyarthropathy) especially in the hands, wrists, feet and ankles. Rashes and joint pain can persist for several weeks or months after someone has recovered from the infection and do not prevent donation.</p> <p>Individuals with parvovirus B19 are infectious at the early stage, before and while experiencing systemic and upper respiratory tract symptoms. Once a rash has appeared an individual is no longer infectious. People who have recovered from parvovirus B19 have lifelong immunity to the virus and cannot be reinfected.</p> <p>Parvovirus B19 may cause more serious illnesses, including anaemia and bone marrow failure, in non-immune individuals who are also immunocompromised. If acquired during pregnancy, parvovirus B19 may result in severe fetal anaemia (hydrops fetalis), miscarriage and stillbirth.</p>
<p><i>Reason for Change</i></p>	<p>This is a new entry.»</p>

3. Changes apply to the **Whole Blood & Components DSG**

Changes to the A-Z index

The following entries will be **created**:

Parvovirus » Parvovirus B19

Human Parvovirus » Parvovirus B19

Slapped Cheek Syndrome » Parvovirus B19

Erythema Infectiosum » Parvovirus B19

Fifth Disease » Parvovirus B19