

Change Notification for the UK Blood Transfusion Services

Date of Issue: 30 April 2025 **Implementation:** to be determined by each Service

No. 07 – 2025

Memorial Tattoos

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
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1. Body Piercing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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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 and Components DSG**

Body Piercing

(revised entry)

<i>Includes</i>	Derma-rolling, ear and body piercing, permanent and semi-permanent make-up, tattooing (including memorial tattoos)«,» platelet rich plasma (PRP) facial, and ritual self-flagellation.
<i>Obligatory</i>	Must not donate if: Less than four months from last piercing.
<i>Discretionary</i>	Painting, stencilling or transfers applied to the skin without piercing, accept.
<i>Additional Information</i>	<p>Piercing has passed infection from person to person. Waiting four months helps to ensure that the infections tested for by the Blood and Tissues Services will be picked up.</p> <p>Platelet rich plasma (PRP) facials (also known as ‘Vampire Facials’) have been associated with HIV transmission.</p> <p>Ritual self-flagellation is carried out by some religious groups. The practice includes beating or flogging oneself with sharp objects. It may be associated with exposure to blood from other participants, either directly or through contamination of shared equipment.</p> <p>«Memorial tattoos may incorporate the cremation ashes of a deceased person into the tattoo ink (also known as a cremation tattoo or cremation ink).»</p> <p>This guidance presumes that a validated NAT test for hepatitis C is negative. If this test is stopped, the guidance will change.</p>
<i>Information</i>	Part of this entry is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.
<i>Reason for Change</i>	«Additional information about memorial tattoos has been added.» A deferral for ritual self-flagellation has been added.
<i>Donor Information</i>	<p>If you wish to obtain more information regarding a personal medical issue, please contact your National Help Line.</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>

The following redirection will be added to the **A-Z index**

Cremation Tattoo » Body Piercing