

Change Notification for the UK Blood Transfusion Services

Date of Issue: 13 December 2022

Implementation: to be determined by each Service

Donor Selection Guidelines:

Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19)

No. 51 – 2022

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

original text

«inserted text»

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The following changes apply to:

BM-DSG	CB-DSG	GDRI	TD-DSG	TL-DSG	WB-DSG
Bone Marrow & Peripheral Blood Stem Cell	Cord Blood	Geographical Disease Risk Index	Tissue – Deceased Donors	Tissue – Live Donors	Whole Blood & Components

<i>See if Relevant</i>	<p>Coronavirus Vaccination</p> <p>Infection: Acute</p> <p>«Contact with Infectious Diseases»</p>
<i>Additional Information</i>	<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>It is recommended that all bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell donors, including those without symptoms or diagnosis of COVID 19 are tested for the presence of viral RNA before donation. Donor must have tested negative for the presence of the viral RNA in the upper respiratory tract.</p>

	<p>There is no evidence at present that SARS-CoV-2 can be transmitted by tissue/ cell transplantation and therefore these measures are considered to be precautionary.</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>This entry has been revised several times during the Covid-19 pandemic in response to evolving evidence and changes in public health and government advice. The guidance within this entry is focussed on Covid-19. Donors who report infection or contact should be referred to a designated clinical support officer.</p> <p>Further guidance has been provided by the British Society for Bone Marrow Transplantation, and is available at:</p> <p>https://bsbmtct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/BSBMTCT-COVID-19-Guidelines-8.0_24th_December_2021_FINAL.pdf</p>
<i>Reason for Change</i>	<p>Reduction of deferral period after confirmed and suspected infection. The deferral period after contact with a case of COVID-19 and guidance regarding quarantine and travel have been removed.</p> <p>«To add information regarding the Royal College of Anaesthetists guidance, delete link to BSBMT guidance, and add link to ‘Contact with Infectious Disease’ entry in ‘See if Relevant’ section.»</p>

The following changes apply to:

<p>BM-DSG Bone Marrow & Peripheral Blood Stem Cell</p>	<p>CB-DSG Cord Blood</p>	<p>GDRI Geographical Disease Risk Index</p>	<p>TD-DSG Tissue - Deceased Donors</p>	<p>TL-DSG Tissue - Live Donors</p>	<p>WB-DSG Whole Blood & Components</p>
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<i>See if Relevant</i>	<p>Coronavirus Vaccination Infection – Acute «Contact with Infectious Diseases»</p>
<i>Reason for Change</i>	<p>Reduction of deferral period after confirmed and suspected infection. The deferral period after contact with a case of COVID-19 and guidance regarding quarantine and travel have been removed.</p> <p>«Addition of links to the ‘Infection – Acute’ and ‘Contact with Infectious Disease’ entries in the ‘See if Relevant’ section.»</p>



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