

Joint UKBTS / NIBSC Professional Advisory
Committee ⁽¹⁾
Summary Sheet

1. Paper for the JPAC meeting on:	10/3/2011
2. Date submitted:	21/1/2011
3. Title (including version no.):	Recommendations on a change to the Donor Selection Guidance for Immunization
4. Author(s):	SAC Care and Selection of Donors Dr Sue Barnes
5. Brief summary:	During the revision of the DSG it has been noted that the guidance for Immunization was for an 8 week deferral for all live vaccines while 4 weeks is required by the BSQR 2005. A request for guidance was passed to Dr P Hewitt and the SAC TTI. The response is attached. SAC CSD on 9/12/10 recommended amending the DSG guidance on Immunisation to allow 4 week deferral for live vaccine while retaining the 8 week deferral for Smallpox vaccine, as per attached.
6. Action required by the Joint Professional Advisory Committee: (What do you want JPAC to do in response to this paper?) e.g.	Endorse recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorse a specific recommendation • advise where there is a choice of possible actions • advise on priorities within the work plan • provide a steer on policy 	
7. Any other relevant information:	

⁽¹⁾ Joint United Kingdom Blood Transfusion Services and National Institute for Biological Standards and Control Professional Advisory Committee

Our Ref: PEH/dm/Barnes221110

22 November 2010

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Dear Sue,

Re: Deferral period for live attenuated vaccines

Su Brailsford wrote to me (21st February 2010) to raise the question of the deferral period for donors after administration of a live vaccine. I can only apologise for the fact that this letter has recently surfaced from my files, and has not been addressed by SACTTI. It appears that it might have fallen off the radar at SAC-CSD, since I have had no reminder! I have asked the expert virologists who sit on SACTTI for their views and have received a very rapid response.

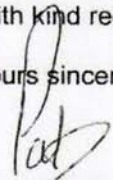
To ensure consistency with advice elsewhere, the question has also been discussed with Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of the Immunisation Division at the Centre for Infections, HPA. The consensus view is that there is no reason why a deferral period of longer than four weeks is required for any live immunisation, apart from the administration of Smallpox vaccine. The immunisation guidelines require a minimum time interval between live vaccines of (now) four weeks, and the time for postponement of pregnancy after MMR immunisation is also now four weeks.

The only concern within immunisation circles relates to mumps immunisation. However, it has been pointed out that mumps viraemia is not detected following natural infection, and has never been detected post- mumps immunisation, in contrast to measles immunisation where viraemia is detected. However, in this case a four-week deferral is sufficient to ensure that there would be no circulating virus at the time of blood donation. This advice therefore may be given following immunisation with MMR, BCG, oral typhoid vaccine, varicella, and yellow fever.

I trust that this advice meets the needs of the SAC-CSD. I have no records in my SACTTI files about any previous decisions, but we can between us be sure that the current advice comes from the highest authority, and is consistent with immunisation policy in the UK.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,


Dr P E Hewitt
Chair, SACTII

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cc Dr Su Brailsford, NHS Blood and Transplant, Colindale

NHS Blood and Transplant is a Special Health Authority within the NHS, responsible for managing the National Blood Service, UK Transplant and Bio Products Laboratory.

Date of publication:

Implementation:

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. - 2011

Applies to all Donor Selection Guidelines.

Immunization - Live

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

- a) Less than eight weeks from administration.
- b) The inoculation site has not yet healed.

Discretionary

If more than four weeks from administration of a live immunization other than smallpox immunization and the inoculation site has healed, accept.

See if Relevant

Smallpox Immunization

Tuberculosis

Additional Information

Live immunizations use living viruses or living bacteria that will stimulate the immune system but do not normally cause a severe illness. They may however cause severe illness in people who are already unwell and have a weakened immune system. By *four* weeks, any infection caused by the immunization should have been controlled and so should not be passed on through donated material. There are special rules for smallpox immunizations.

Information

This entry is compliant with the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.

Update Information

This entry was last updated in:

DSG-WB Edition 203, Release *????*

Reason for Change

Advice has been given from SACTTI that a period of four weeks is sufficient to ensure that there would be no circulating virus at time of blood or component donation for live immunizations other than smallpox.

Donor Information

If you wish to obtain more information regarding a personal medical issue please contact your National Help Line.

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