Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services

3.13: Prion-associated diseases including sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and variant CJD (vCJD)


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Individuals who are identified as having an increased risk of developing a prion-associated disease must be permanently excluded from donation. This includes:

- individuals who have received human pituitary-derived hormones
- patients who have received grafts of human dura mater or cornea, sclera or other ocular tissue
- persons identified as being members of a family at risk of inherited prion diseases
- persons who are known to have received an allogeneic tissue or blood transfusion since 1980 (for these purposes, a transfusion is defined as any product containing red cells, platelets, granulocytes, fresh frozen plasma, cryoprecipitate-depleted plasma, buffy coat preparations and intravenous or subcutaneous human normal immunoglobulin and includes mothers whose babies have required intrauterine transfusion)
- persons who have been told that they have been put at increased risk from surgery, transfusion or transplant of tissues or organs
- persons who have been told that they may be at increased risk because a recipient of their blood or tissues has developed a prion-related disorder.

The current edition of the JPAC Donor Selection Guidelines provides detailed advice and should be consulted.