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Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 17 - 2011

Homosexual and Bisexual Individuals

Applies to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines only.

1. Female

Discretionary

Accept.

Additional Information

There is no evidence that there is an increased risk of sexually transmitted infections in homosexual or bisexual females compared to heterosexual females.

2. Male

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Has had oral or anal sex with another man, even if a condom or other protective was used.

Discretionary

If 12 months or more from the last oral or anal sexual contact with another man, accept

See if Relevant

Blood Safety Entry

Additional Information

Men who have sex with other men have a higher chance of having an undiagnosed infection which could be passed to anyone receiving their blood. During 2010 and 2011, SaBTO commissioned a subgroup to review the donor selection criteria and risks associated with blood donation by men who have had sex with men.

This review considered advances in the sensitivity of testing procedures currently in use in the UK, the prevalence of transfusion transmissible infections in men who have had sex with men, and the current level of compliance with the permanent exclusion. This review recommended that the deferral period for men who have had sex with men should be reduced to 12 months after last sexual contact. The recommendations were approved by SaBTO and by the English Department of Health and the devolved authorities in Scotland, and Wales.

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3. Female Sexual Partners of Men who have Sex with Men

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Male partner has had oral or anal sex with another man, even if a condom or other protective was used.

Discretionary

If 12 months or more from the last sexual contact with a man who has ever had sex with another man, accept. There are exceptions so please ask.

See if Relevant

Blood Safety Entry

Additional Information

Men who have sex with other men have a higher chance of having an undiagnosed infection which could be passed to their female partner.

Waiting twelve months from the last sexual contact helps to ensure that the infections tested for by the Blood Services will be picked up.

There may be exceptions for female partners of men who have had sex with men. They may be allowed to donate on the basis of an individual risk assessment.

Reason for Change

The guidance has been changed in line with recommendations from the Department of Health Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO).



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