

Date of publication: 09 April 2019

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 08 - 2019

Blood Safety Entry

This change applies to the Whole Blood and Component Donor Selection Guidelines

Applies to England, Scotland and Wales only. Donors and staff in Northern Ireland see [Blood Safety Entry - N.I.](#)

Obligatory

Information must be provided so that individuals at risk do not donate. The reasons for donor self-exclusion must be understood.

1. You must not donate if:

You think you need a test for HIV/AIDS, HTLV or hepatitis.

2. You must never donate if:

- a) You are HIV positive [or receiving treatment for HIV](#).
- b) You are HTLV positive.
- c) You are a hepatitis B carrier.
- d) You are a hepatitis C carrier.
- e) You have ever injected, or been injected with, drugs; even a long time ago or only once. This includes bodybuilding drugs and injectable tanning agents. You may be able to give if a doctor prescribed the drugs. Please ask.

3. You must not donate for at least three months if:

You are working as a sex worker. You may be accepted for donation if it is longer than three months since you last received money or drugs for sex.

4. You must not donate for at least three months after sex (even if you used a condom or other protective) with:

- a) (If you are a man): another man.
- b) (If you are a woman): A man who has ever had oral or anal sex with another man, even if they used a condom or other protective. There are exceptions, so please ask.

5. You must not donate for at least three months after sex (even if you used a condom or other protective) with:

A partner who is, or you think may be:

- a) HIV or HTLV positive.
- b) A hepatitis B carrier.

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- c) A hepatitis C carrier.
- d) A partner who has ever received money or drugs for sex.
- e) A partner who has ever injected, or been injected with, drugs: even a long time ago or only once. This includes bodybuilding drugs and injectable tanning agents. You may be able to give if a doctor prescribed the drugs. Please ask.
- f) A partner who has, or you think may have been, sexually active, in parts of the world where HIV/AIDS is very common. This includes most countries in Africa. There are exceptions, so please ask.

6. You must not donate for at least three months if:

- a) You have taken Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) / Truvada® for prevention of HIV
- b) You have taken or been prescribed Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for prevention of HIV.

If the underlying reason for taking PrEP or PEP warrants a longer deferral period, this should be applied.

See if relevant

Addiction and Drug Abuse
Blood Safety Entry-N.I.
Hepatitis B
Hepatitis C
HIV
Homosexual and Bisexual Individuals
HTLV
Infection – General
[Non-consented Exposure to Human Bodily Fluids](#)
[Pre- or Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV](#)

Additional Information

Following the publication of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Report 2017 the deferral period for most risks in this category has been reduced from 12 to three months. In addition the permanent deferral of sex workers has been changed to three months.

This review considered advances in the sensitivity of testing procedures currently in use in the UK, the prevalence of transfusion transmissible infections and the current level of compliance with the 12 month exclusion for donors at higher risk of blood borne infections that has been in effect until now..

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

[The drugs used in both PrEP and PEP may interfere with the routine HIV screening tests carried out on all blood donations. For this reason, donors who have taken PrEP or PEP should not donate for three months, even if they have not had a sexual partner in a risk group.](#)

'Blood Safety Leaflet Information' is available in the 'Document Library' of 'www.transfusionguidelines.org'.

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Information This is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.

Reason for change The addition of deferral periods for donors who have taken PrEP or PEP and a specific deferral of individuals on treatment for HIV.

SmacLennan

Dr Sheila MacLennan
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee
☎ Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638 ✉ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk