

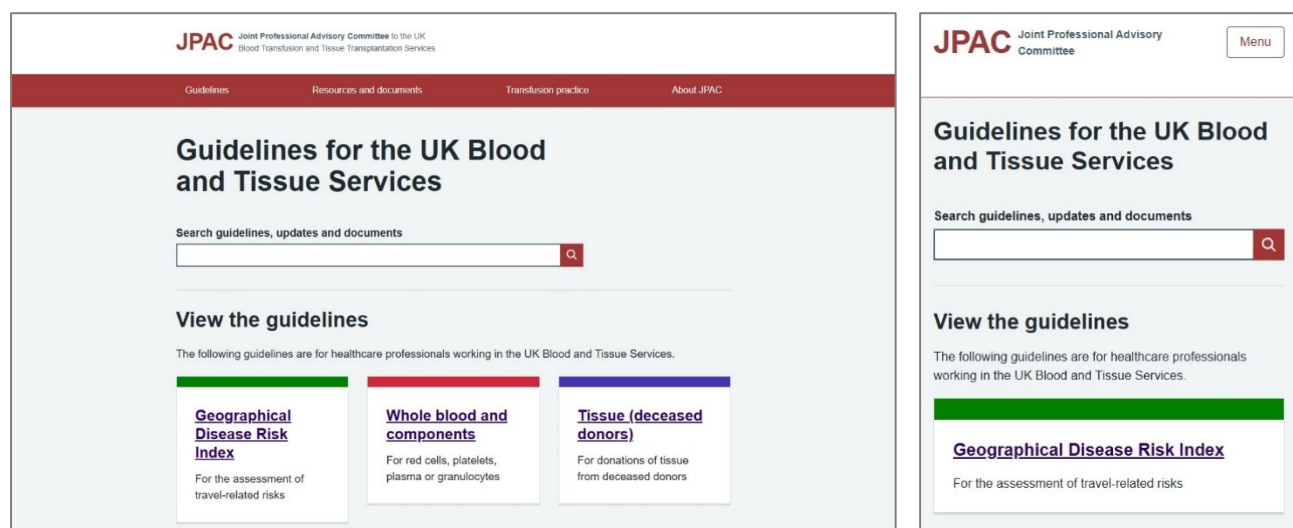
Change Notification for the UK Blood and Tissue Services

Notification date:	01 April 2026
Effective date:	01 May 2026
Implementation:	To be determined by each Service

CN 09-2026

Changes to be introduced on the new JPAC website

The new website (www.jpac.org.uk) will launch on 01 May 2026. It has been redesigned to improve accessibility, enhance navigation and search functionalities, and allow better access on mobile devices.



The website will continue to present the Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services in the UK (Red Book), its constituent Donor Selection Guidelines (DSGs) and the Geographical Disease Risk Index (GDRI), as well as our existing library of documents. The website will also continue to host material on behalf of JPAC stakeholders, including the UK and Ireland Blood Transfusion Network, the UK Cell Salvage Action Group and the UK Red Alert Plans group.

The current website (www.transfusionguidelines.org) will be maintained until 01 June 2026 to facilitate transition between the two websites. A number of changes to how certain website sections are currently structured and presented will be implemented in the new website and these are outlined in this document.

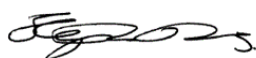
During the transition period, we will ensure that any updates to the text of the guidelines is reflected on both websites. However, due to technical limitations of the current website, many changes being introduced on the new website cannot be replicated on the current website. Therefore, the changes in this document will apply to the new website only. Changes to the guidelines which will apply to both the current website and the new website, and will be implemented when the new website launches, are detailed in **CN 10-2026**.

When the current website is retired on 01 June 2026, its web address (www.transfusionguidelines.org) will redirect to the new website homepage (www.jpac.org.uk). It is important to note that this redirection will not be permanent and will cease when our ownership of the current web address expires.

We encourage use of the new website as soon as possible after launch to prepare for the eventual retirement of the current website. It is recommended that any links to the current website are updated as soon as possible after launch. A list of individual webpages, showing the full web address of each page on the current and new websites, accompanies this document to facilitate updates to procedures and documentation (see **Comparison list of JPAC website pages**).

This notification includes the following changes:

Change	Page
1 Layout of Geographical Disease Risk Index (GDRI) entries	3
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Dr Stephen Thomas
Professional Director of JPAC

1. Layout of Geographical Disease Risk Index (GDRI) entries

GDRI entries will show **Risk** or No Risk for the following categories:

- Malaria
- *Trypanosoma cruzi*
- West Nile Virus
- Viral haemorrhagic fever
- Tropical viruses

Bermuda

Geographical disease risk index

Malaria	No Risk
Trypanosoma Cruzi	No Risk
West Nile Virus	No Risk
Viral haemorrhagic fever	No Risk
Tropical viruses	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 5px;">Risk</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chikungunya Virus Dengue Virus

Risk applies all year in whole country.

[Search for Tropical virus guidance](#)

Whereas previously it was shown only when a risk was present, VHF risk status will now be shown on all entries: entries without VHF risk will now show 'No Risk' and entries with existing VHF risk are unchanged.

The existing 'Sub-Saharan Africa' risk field will be removed from all entries.

Where required, supplementary guidance text will be included, and entries will include maps as before. Additional risk categories may be added in the future, either to all entries or selected entries, and will be notified using the standard Change Notification process.

Where a 'Risk' is shown, users will be able to search for relevant guideline entries by clicking on the [Search for ... guidance](#) hyperlink within a GDRI entry. This will not be available where there is 'No Risk'.

Search guidelines and documents

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▶ [Filter results](#) 96 Results

[Tropical viruses](#)

Whole blood

[Tropical viruses](#)

2. Layout of Donor Selection Guidelines (DSG) entries

DSG entries will present information in three sections.

The **Essential information** section will include the following subsections (as applicable):

- Definitions
- Includes
- Excludes
- Obligatory guidance
- Discretionary guidance

The **Supporting information** section will include the following subsections (as applicable):

- See if relevant links
- Additional information
- Post donation illness
- Post session review of results
- Regulatory information

<h1>Epilepsy</h1>	
<small>Whole blood and components</small>	
<h2>Essential information</h2>	
Obligatory	Must not donate if: 1. Requiring treatment for epilepsy. 2. Has had an epileptic episode in the last 3 years.
Discretionary	Previous epilepsy: If a person with a past history of epilepsy has, for the past 3 years, neither required anticonvulsant therapy, nor been subject to fits, accept.
<h2>Supporting information</h2>	
See if relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malignancy • Neurosurgery
Additional information	Faints following donation can lead to epileptiform convulsions. This is caused by a lack of oxygen reaching the brain. This could lead to a true epileptic fit in a person with a recent history of epilepsy. It may also cause difficulties with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and/or employment in a person who has been free from fits for some time.
Regulatory information	This entry is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005 .

The **Scenarios** section will be used for entries that are currently presented as multi-part entries. If present, expandable named scenarios will show the following subsections (as applicable):

- Summary
- Also known as
- Definitions
- Includes
- Excludes
- Obligatory
- Discretionary
- See if relevant
- Additional information

Catarrh

Whole blood and components

Scenarios

[▼ Acute catarrh](#)

Obligatory	See Infection, acute
Additional information	Catarrh may be due to infection or to allergy. If the problem is new, it should be treated as an infection.

[▼ Chronic catarrh](#)

Obligatory	Must not donate if: Taking prescribed medication for catarrh other than antihistamines, a nasal decongestant or nasal steroids.
Discretionary	If using antihistamines, a nasal decongestant or nasal steroids only, accept.
See if relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergy • Infection, general • Steroid therapy
Additional information	Chronic catarrh may be due to infection or to allergy. A decision will need to be made as to the underlying cause.

For entries with scenarios, information contained within the main ‘Essential information’ and ‘Supporting information’ sections of the entry apply to the whole entry; information within each scenario will apply to that scenario only.

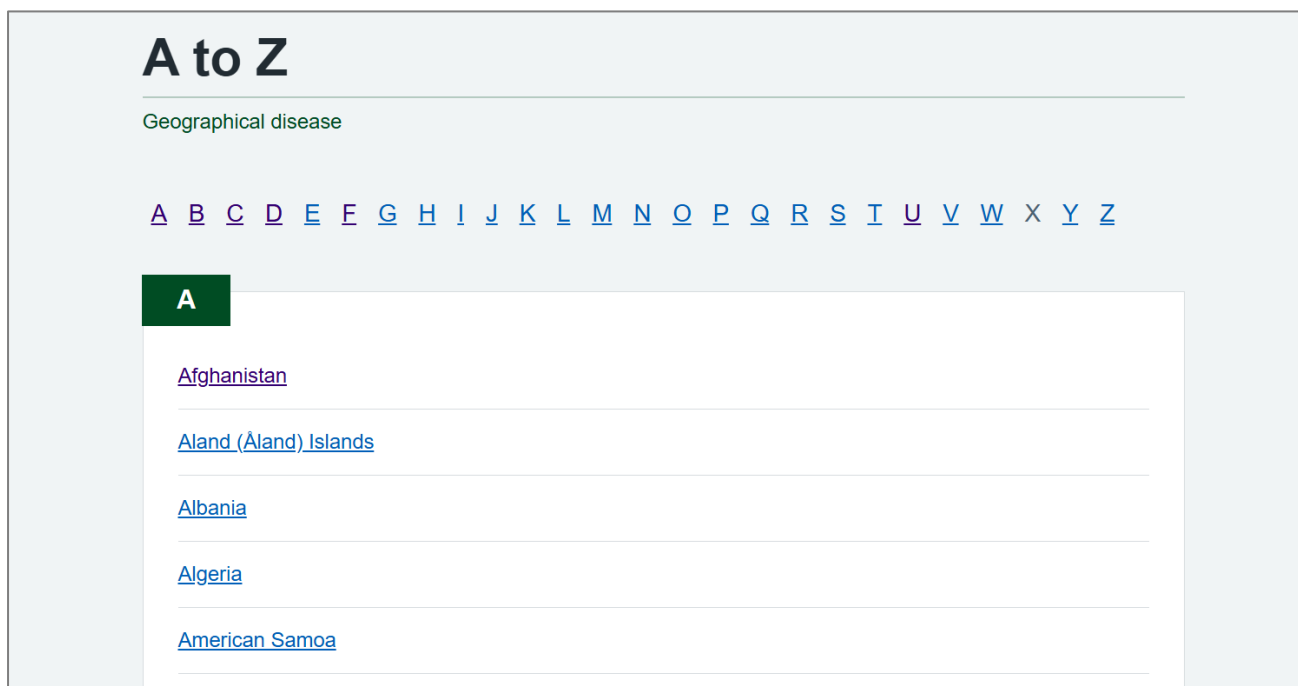
Any ‘Also known as’ terms will be shown beneath the main title of the entry.

Except for entries detailed in **CN 10-2026**, the information contained within each DSG entry is unchanged.

3. A to Z lists of entries

The GDRI and each DSG will contain an alphabetical list of entries to allow users to view all current entries within that set of guidelines and navigate to an entry directly from the list.

The A to Z navigation menu across the top of the list will allow users to jump to a particular letter.



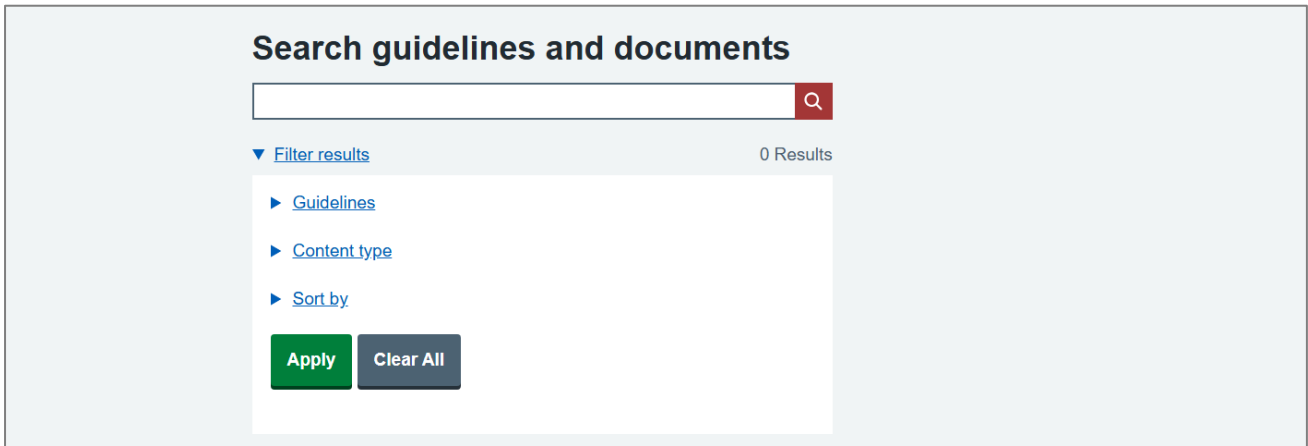
Each A to Z list will be updated as entries are added, renamed or removed.

'Also known as' terms (if applicable) will be shown in parentheses after the entry title.

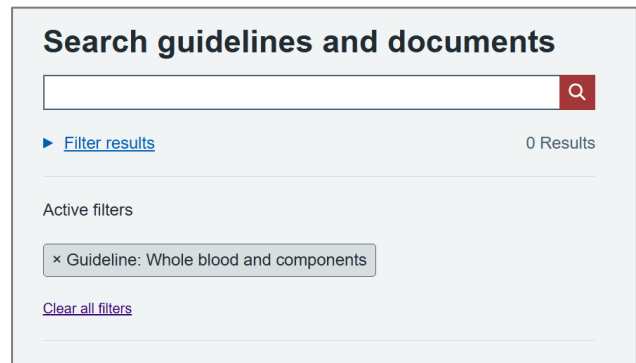
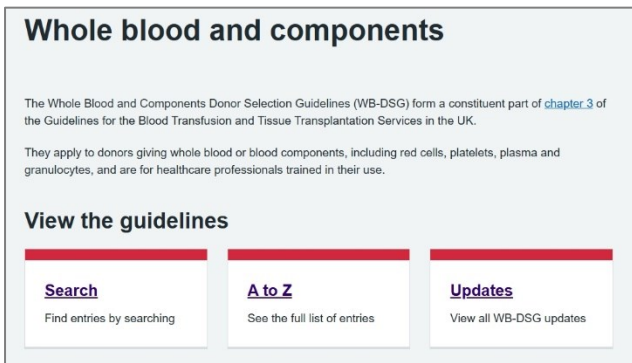


4. Search

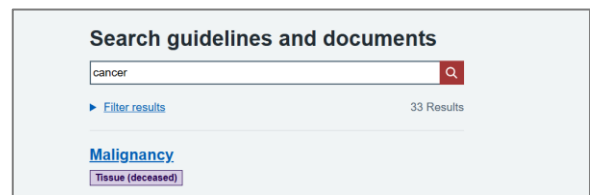
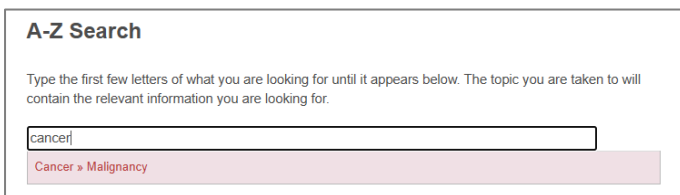
The functionality of the site-wide search will be improved. Search results will include guideline entries, documents and other pages, and can be filtered to show any of these selectively.



The dropdown search bar within each set of guidelines will be replaced by the improved search function and the inclusion of the A to Z list of entries (see 3). A [Search](#) link on the landing page of each guideline will direct users to a search page automatically filtered to show results relevant to that set of guidelines.



The 'redirections' previously used on the dropdown search bar on the current site (below, left) will be replaced by relevant search terms added to each entry. This will allow searching by entry title, keyword or alternative terms (below, right).



5. Version details

Version details for guideline entries will be expanded to include the date of an entry's last update in addition to the currently included Edition/Release number and reason for change.

Reason for change: Guidance for gender-affirming therapy and male testosterone deficiency has been removed from this entry. Users are now directed to the 'Transgender and non-binary individuals' and 'Testosterone replacement therapy' entries.

Version: [Testosterone Replacement Therapy](#)

Version details: WB-DSG Edition 203 Release 79 (17 February 2026)

A link to the relevant Change Notification document will also be added at the end of each entry.

Please note, while Change Notification links will always be added to entries updated after launch, links will not be available on all entries at launch. The addition of these links is planned to be completed in the coming months.

6. Restructured ‘Preliminaries’

The current ‘Preliminaries’ pages within the GDRI and each DSG have been restructured and are now presented on single ‘Using these guidelines’ pages relevant to each guideline.

Guideline	Current pages	New page
Geographical Disease Risk Index	Introduction Document and Change Control General Principles Malaria Use of maps Travel information	Using these guidelines
Whole blood and components	Introduction Document and Change Control General Principles Medication Inspection of the Donor Use of Alphabetical Listing	Using these guidelines
Tissue (deceased donors)	Introduction Document and Change Control General Principles Medication Use of Alphabetical Index	Using these guidelines
Tissue (live donors)	Introduction Document and Change Control General Principles Medication Use of Alphabetical Index	Using these guidelines
Bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell	Introduction Document and Change Control General Principles Medication Use of Alphabetical Index	Using these guidelines
Cord blood	Introduction Document and Change Control General Principles Medication Use of Alphabetical Index	Using these guidelines

Minor changes have been made to the text of these pages to align with the new page structure, and to improve accessibility, but the information conveyed is unchanged.

7. Renumbered appendices

Appendix 1 ('Changes to Donor Selection Guidelines') will be removed from the following guidelines:

- Tissue (deceased donors)
- Tissue (live donors)
- Bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell
- Cord blood

The remaining appendices will be renumbered accordingly.

Guideline	Appendix	Current	New
Tissue (deceased donors)	Criteria for the withdrawal of donations	2	1
	Calculation of blood and plasma dilution	3	2
	Immunisations	4	3
	Grading of central nervous system tumours	5	4
Tissue (live donors)	Criteria for the withdrawal of donations	2	1
	Immunisations	3	2
Bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell	Criteria for the withdrawal of donations	2	1
	Immunisations	3	2
Cord blood	Criteria for the withdrawal of donations	2	1
	Immunisations	3	2

The appendices to the Whole blood and components DSG (WB-DSG) are unchanged.

8. Drugs and platelet donation (drug index)

The dropdown search bar on the 'Drugs and platelet donation' page will be replaced with an alphabetical list of drug names. The drugs on the list are unchanged.

Drug index	
A	Aceclofenac
	Acemetacin
	Aspirin
	Azapropazone
C	Celecoxib
D	Dexketoprofen
	Diclofenac potassium
	Diclofenac sodium
E	Etodolac
	Etoricoxib
F	Felbinac
	Fenbufen
	Fenoprofen
	Flurbiprofen

9. Offline versions of the guidelines

Offline versions of the guidelines will be provided on the relevant ‘Source files’ pages as before.

The individual PDF versions of the GDRI and each DSG will contain the complete set of guideline entries, the information on the relevant ‘Using these guidelines’ page (previously ‘Preliminaries’), and any appendices and supplementary pages.

Table of Contents

Guidelines

- [Accident](#)
- [Addiction and drug abuse](#)
- [African trypanosomiasis](#)
- [Age](#)
- [Allergy](#)
- [Anaemia](#)
- [Animal bite, non-human](#)
- [Ankylosing spondylitis \(AS\)](#)
- [Anthrax](#)
- [Antibiotic therapy](#)
- [Arthritis](#)
- [Asthma](#)
- [ATestPage](#)
- [Autoimmune disease](#)

Asthma

Cord Blood

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate if:**
Taking, or has completed, oral or parenteral steroids within the last 7 days.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- [Infection, general](#)
- [Steroid therapy](#)

Additional information Steroid therapy can hide the signs and symptoms of infection. Stem cells from an infected donor could be dangerous to the person receiving them.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: CB-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (11 December 2007)

The offline browser, replicating the design, navigation and functionality of the live website, will contain the GDRI and the Whole blood and components DSG (WB-DSG) as before.

Joint Professional Advisory Committee to the UK
Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services

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Guidelines

Guidelines

The following guidelines are for healthcare professionals working in the UK Blood and Tissue Services.

Geographical
Disease Risk
Index

For the assessment of
travel-related risks

Whole blood and
components

For red cells, platelets,
plasma or granulocytes

10. Accessibility improvements

All website pages will be updated to ensure compliance with accessibility legislation.

Where necessary, this will include:

- Changing the colour of page backgrounds and text
- Changing the size and formatting of text
- Replacing figures and diagrams with accessible alternatives or the addition of text descriptions
- Splitting large complex tables into multiple accessible tables
- Adding alternative (alt) image text for users of screen readers
- Updating hyperlinks with descriptive text
- Restructured level headings for page sections and subsections
- Amendments to bulleted and numbered lists
- Definition of each abbreviation at first use
- Minor amendments to content for legibility and readability

In all cases, the information conveyed will be unchanged.

An accessibility audit of the new website has identified several additional areas for improvement, though none which significantly affect accessibility compliance. These will be addressed, with a repeat audit planned thereafter.