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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 12 - 2006

Animal Bite

Applies to Donor Selection Guidelines - Whole Blood and Components

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Any wound is infected or not healed.

See if relevant

[Infection - General](#)
[Rabies](#)

Additional Information

Animal bites may result in many different infections. Allowing all wounds to heal and for any obvious infection to have resolved should avoid problems. Rabies, and similar diseases, have long incubation periods and do not show as a wound infection. There is however no evidence that these infections have ever been transmitted through a blood transfusion. These diseases appear to be confined to the nervous system during their incubation periods. There is evidence that they have been transmitted through organ and ocular transplants. For this reason there are different rules for material that may contain nervous system tissue.

Reason for Change

To introduce an entry for animal bites.

Dr Brian McClelland

Professional Director - Joint UKBTS/NIBSC Professional Advisory Committee

☎ Direct Dial: (0131) 536 6002

✉ E-mail: Brian.McClelland@snbts.csa.scot.nhs.uk