Tissue - Live Donors
Donor Selection Guidelines (TL-DSG)

Edition 203 - 1 June 2007

Release 65 - 14 December 2026

Issue 1

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Updates

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Achondroplasia

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Essential information

Obligatory	**Bone, structural:** **Must not donate.**
Discretionary	**Bone, non-structural:** Accept.

Supporting information

Additional information	People with achondroplasia have abnormal structural bone. This may not be suitable for grafting.

Reason for change: People with achondroplasia have abnormal structural bone. This may not be suitable for grafting.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Addiction and drug abuse

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Has injected, or has been injected with, drugs in the past 12 months.
2. Adversely affected by any drug, including alcohol, which may affect the process of obtaining valid consent.
3. Has injected, been injected with, or taken non-parenteral chemsex drugs in the past 3 months. See Tissues safety.

Discretionary

1. Accept if has not injected, or been injected with, other non-prescription drugs (other than drugs of addiction), such as bodybuilding drugs or injectable tanning agent within the past 3 months.
2. Accept if has not injected, or been injected with, drugs of addiction within the last 12 months.
3. If has not injected, or been injected with, drugs of addiction within the last 3 months, refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer. The donor may be accepted with individual risk assessment. See **Additional information** below.
4. May be acceptable if injected drugs were prescribed by the donor's physician for a condition that would not lead to exclusion.
5. Previous use of non-parenteral drugs does not necessarily require exclusion

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Tissues safety

Additional information

Injecting drugs has been linked with the passing on of many infections, including hepatitis and HIV. It can be many years before any infection shows itself. Former drug users often do not realise that they can still pass infection on to others many years after they last used drugs themselves. The deferral periods specified above may be reduced by doing individual risk assessment if the risk of acquiring an infectious disease may be outweighed by the risk of delaying a lifesaving transplantation. This guidance presumes that a validated NAT test for HIV, HBV and HCV is negative; if this test is stopped for any reason, the guidance will change

Anyone obviously affected by alcohol or other drugs that can affect the mind, cannot give valid consent or fully understand why they are being asked certain questions.

Reason for change: Obligatory section updated as a part of the implementation of recommendations from the FAIR III report, including addition of chemsex drugs.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 55 (15 November 2023)

African trypanosomiasis

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Also known as: sleeping sickness

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Reason for change: 'Sleeping sickness' added as an 'Also known as' term.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 62 (1 May 2026)

Age

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Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Under 17 years of age.

Discretionary

Bone, non-structural:

Accept at any age over 17.

Supporting information

Additional information

Surgical bone is not processed for structural (weight-bearing) use so an upper age limit is not required.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Alcoholism

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Essential information

Obligatory **See:** Addiction and drug abuse

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Cirrhosis

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Allergy

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Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Steroid therapy

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Anaemia

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Essential information

Discretionary

1. **History of anaemia:**
   This must be assessed regarding its cause, current status and what treatment has been received.
2. **Iron deficiency:**
   If not under investigation or on treatment and the underlying cause is not a reason to exclude, accept.
3. **Other types:**
   Accept or exclude according to the guidelines.
4. **In other cases:**
   Refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Haemoglobin disorders
- Haemolytic anaemia
- Malignancy

If treated with blood components or products or by plasma exchange or filtration:

- Transfusion

Additional information

People with severe long-standing anaemia may have abnormal structural bone. This may not be suitable for grafting.

There are special rules for people who have received blood components or blood products.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Animal bite, non-human

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Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Ever bitten by a non-human primate.
2. Any wound is infected or not healed.
3. Less than 24 months since bitten anywhere in the world by a bat or by any other mammal outside of the British Isles (UK and Ireland).

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general
- Inoculation injury
- Rabies

Additional information

Being bitten by a non-human primate should result in permanent deferral. Risks include simian T-lymphotropic virus, herpes B, simian foamy virus and other as yet unknown viruses. Non-human primates include chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, gibbons, monkeys (old and new world), tarsiers, lemurs and lorises.

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 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, tissue and ocular transplants. For this reason, there are different rules for material that may contain nervous system tissue.

Anyone who has been in unusual contact with a bat, such as handling a sick or injured bat, or woken to find that a bat has been with them while asleep, should be considered at risk of rabies. Bat bites are usually insignificant and easily overlooked. Merely being in a place where bats roost is not considered a risk.

Reason for change: To extend the deferral period following being bitten by a bat or other mammal outside of the UK from 12 to 24 months, and to provide more information on the potential risks resulting from non-human primate bites. To provide a detailed definition of a non-human primate.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 40 (15 July 2020)

Ankylosing spondylitis (AS)

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Essential information

Obligatory	**See:** Autoimmune disease
Discretionary	Accept.

Reason for change: A link to 'Autoimmune Disease' has been added
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Anthrax

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Scenarios

Infection

Obligatory

See: Infection, acute

Exposure

Discretionary

Even if on prophylactic antibiotics, accept.

Additional information

Anthrax infection most commonly affects the skin through direct contact with infected material such as animal hides. If spores have been inhaled, there is no evidence that there is any spread to the bloodstream until the person has developed signs of infection. For this reason, it is considered safe to accept exposed donors provided they have not shown signs of infection, even if they have been given prophylactic antibiotics.

Immunisation

Obligatory

See: Immunisation, non-live

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Antibiotic therapy

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Essential information

Obligatory

See: Infection, general

Supporting information

Additional information

Treatment with antibiotics is not of itself a reason for deferral but the reason for the treatment may be. When treatment is being given to prevent infection, rather than to treat it, see if there is a relevant entry. If not, discuss with a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Reason for change: Additional Information' has been added for clarity.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Arthritis

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Ankylosing spondylitis
- Autoimmune disease
- Osteoarthritis
- Psoriasis
- Rheumatoid arthritis

Reason for change: A link has been added for 'Autoimmune Disease'.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Asthma

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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. Tissue from an infected donor could be dangerous to the person receiving them.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Autoimmune disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

See: is there an entry for the condition?

Must not donate if:

The donor has needed treatment to suppress the condition in the last 12 months.

Supporting information

See if relevant

If treated with immunoglobulin or plasma exchange or filtration:

- Transfusion

Additional information

Treatment to suppress the condition may be with steroids, immunosuppressive drugs, antimetabolites, antibodies directed against parts of the immune system as well as other therapies. These will affect the donor's immune system. This may make the donor more susceptible to certain types of infection and also will make some infections more difficult to diagnose.

Autoimmune disease is caused by the body attacking itself. This is with antibodies that are in the fluid part of the blood (plasma) and with immune cells directly attacking target cells in the part(s) of the body affected.

Reason for change: Additional Information has been added to clarify treatment that may have been used to suppress the condition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Avascular necrosis of the femoral head (hip)

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Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate:

Affected femoral heads.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Babesiosis

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Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. The inoculation site has not yet healed.
2. Less than 4 weeks after inoculation.

Supporting information

Additional information

BCG is an immunisation with live bacteria. By 4 weeks, the infection caused by the inoculation should have been controlled. If the wound has not healed, it is possible that there may still be infection present. We do not want to pass BCG, or other infections, on to people receiving donated material.

Reason for change: Advice has been given from SACTTI that a period of four weeks is sufficient to ensure that there would be no circulating virus or bacteria at time of donation for live immunizations other than smallpox.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 08 (21 June 2011)

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC)

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Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Still receiving treatment.
2. Any wound has not healed.

Supporting information

Additional information

Although basal cell carcinoma is a form of cancer, it only spreads locally. As it does not spread by the blood stream, it is not a risk to people receiving donated material.

An unhealed wound is a risk for bacteria entering the blood. Bacteria can be a serious threat to anybody receiving donated material. This is because the bacteria can multiply to dangerous levels.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Bleeding disorder

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes Carriers.

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Treated with blood derived coagulation factor concentrates.

See if relevant

- Transfusion

Additional information

People who have received blood derived coagulation concentrates (these are made from the blood of many hundreds of individual donors) may have been put at risk of infections that can be passed through donations.

Family members, carers and sexula partners of individuals treated with blood-derived coagulation factor concentrates

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Treated with blood derived coagulation factor concentrates.
2. A sexual partner, or former sexual partner, of a person treated with blood derived coagulation factor concentrates.
3. Less than 3 months after the date of an inoculation injury with either blood derived coagulation factor concentrates, or from blood contamination from an affected individual.

Discretionary

If 3 months or more from last sexual contact or inoculation injury, accept.

See if relevant

- Inoculation injury
- Transfusion

Additional information

Blood-derived coagulation concentrates:

These are made from the blood of many donors. They may put recipients at risk of infections that can be passed through blood. This risk may be shared by their sexual partners.

Waiting 3 months from the last sexual contact or inoculation injury helps to ensure that the infections tested for by the UK Blood and Tissues Services will be picked up.

Reason for change: This entry was updated in line with the recommendations of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Review Report published on 23rd July 2017.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 29 (27 November 2017)

Blood pressure, high

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Also known as: hypertension

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Body piercing

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Essential information

Includes

Derma-rolling, ear and body piercing, permanent and semi-permanent makeup, tattooing (including memorial tattoos), platelet rich plasma (PRP) facials, ritual self-flagellation.

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 3 months after last piercing.

Discretionary

Piercings performed within the UK in a commercial setting:

Accept.

Piercings performed outside the UK or within the UK in an unlicensed non-commercial premises more than 3 months ago:

Accept.

Painting, stencilling or transfers applied to the skin without piercing:

Accept.

Supporting information

Additional information

Under all current legislation, it is a criminal offence to trade without registration (licensing) or to be in breach of the relevant bylaws. Similar provisions are in place in Scotland in the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006. Some London boroughs also require a 'special treatment' license. It is expected that all premises will follow infection control processes including using single needles for treatments.

In the UK, local authorities are responsible for regulating and monitoring businesses providing semi-permanent skin colouring procedures (micropigmentation, semi-permanent make-up and temporary tattooing). The focus of legislation covering local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982) is on minimising infection risks using compulsory registration of practitioners and premises and optional powers to make bylaws.

For piercings performed outside the UK or within the UK in an unlicensed, non-commercial establishment less than 3 months ago, the donor may only be accepted following documented individual risk assessment and discussion with the transplant centre if the risk of delaying transplant outweighs the risk of transmission of infections.

Piercing has passed infection from person to person. Waiting 3 months helps to ensure that the infections tested for by the UK Blood and Tissues Services will be picked up.

Memorial tattoos are permanent or temporary body art designs that honour, celebrate, and remember a loved one or pet who has passed away. They may include a small amount of the cremated remains of the individual or animal mixed with the tattoo ink. The temperature required for cremation of both humans and animals safely exceeds that required to inactivate any known infectious agent that may have been present in the remains, and they should be considered as a standard body piercing when assessing risk.

Platelet rich plasma (PRP) facials (also known as 'vampire facials') have been

associated with HIV transmission.

Ritual self-flagellation is carried out by some religious groups. The practice includes beating or flogging oneself with sharp objects. It may be associated with exposure to blood from other participants, either directly or through contamination of shared equipment.

This guidance presumes that a validated NAT test for HIV, HBV and HCV is negative; if this test is stopped for any reason, the guidance will change.

Reason for change: Additional information on memorial tattoos has been added.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 65 (14 December 2026)

Breast lump

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Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Malignant.
2. Not fully investigated and cleared of malignancy.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Malignancy

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Bronchitis

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Acute bronchitis

Obligatory

See: Infection, acute

Chronic bronchitis

See if relevant

- Infection, general
- Steroid therapy

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Brucellosis

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Also known as: undulant fever

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Cardiac surgery

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Cardiovascular disease
- Endocarditis
- Transfusion

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Cardiomyopathy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Not recovered from infective causes.
2. Cardiomyopathy secondary to an infiltrative process (e.g. amyloidosis, sarcoidosis).

Reason for change: The entry has been changed to make it clear that cardiomyopathy is not an absolute contraindication to donation of cardiovascular tissues.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 27 (10 October 2016)

Cardiovascular disease (CVD)

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Cardiomyopathy
- Endocarditis
- Myocarditis

Reason for change: Additional links have been added.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Catarrh

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Acute catarrh

Obligatory

See: Infection, acute

Chronic catarrh

See if relevant

- Infection, general

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Central nervous system (CNS) disease

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Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Dementia.
2. History of central nervous system (CNS) disease of unknown or suspected infective origin, e.g. multiple sclerosis (MS), optic neuritis, clinically isolated syndrome, transverse myelitis, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD).
3. Neurodegenerative conditions of unknown aetiology (e.g. Parkinson's disease).

Discretionary

1. Individuals who have had Bell's palsy more than 4 weeks ago and have discontinued any treatment for the condition for at least 7 days, even if they have residual paralysis, accept.
2. If a definite diagnosis of transient global amnesia has been made, accept.
3. If the cause of the disease is not established, refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Neurosurgery
- Prion-associated diseases
- Rabies

Additional information

Often the exact cause of a degenerative brain condition only becomes known after death. For this reason, when there is any doubt as to the underlying cause of a brain condition, it is considered safest not to accept a donation. It is thought that degenerative brain disease in the form of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) has been transmitted by blood transfusion.

Transient global amnesia is a temporary and isolated disorder of memory. Affected individuals are usually over 50 years of age and there is an association with migraine. There is no association with cerebrovascular disease.

Reason for change: To clarify that CNS disease of unknown origin, and clinically isolated syndrome, are reasons for obligatory deferral and to permit individual risk assessment where appropriate.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 31 (24 April 2018)

Cervical dysplasia

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Also known as: cervical intraepithelial neoplasia, CIN

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Undergoing investigation or treatment.
2. Diagnosed with invasive cervical carcinoma.

Discretionary

1. If the donor had colposcopy treatment for abnormal cervical cells and has been discharged to routine screening, accept. It is not necessary to wait for a normal smear result before donating.
2. If only having regular review of smears, accept.

Supporting information

Additional information

Cervical screening includes testing for high risk human papillomavirus (HR-HPV). Women who are positive for HR-HPV may be called for routine smear tests at more frequent intervals. They can donate, provided they are not undergoing other tests or awaiting colposcopy investigation.

Women with abnormal cells on a smear test are triaged according to their risk of developing cervical carcinoma. Women at higher risk will be referred for investigation and treatment via colposcopy.

Abnormalities identified at colposcopy include cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN, Grades 1-3) and cervical glandular intraepithelial neoplasia (CGIN). CIN-3 is also known as cervical carcinoma in situ. By definition, patients with CIN or CGIN do not have invasive cervical carcinoma, so can be accepted once treated, fully healed and discharged. There is no need to wait for the results of their next routine smear, usually at 6 months post treatment, unless the donor has been advised that follow-up will be necessary at the colposcopy clinic.

Reason for change: Updated to clarify the scope of entry, when a donor can be accepted after treatment for cervical dysplasia and the significance of HR-HPV testing.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 46 (16 March 2022)

Chickenpox

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Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Infection, acute

Contact with an affected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Infectious diseases, contact with

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Chondromalacia

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Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes

Myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), post-viral fatigue syndrome, systemic exertion intolerance disease (SEID).

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Not resolved.

Discretionary

If donor had a history of fatigue following a viral infection (e.g. glandular fever) with no relapse of symptoms and all symptoms are resolved, accept.

Supporting information

Additional information

CFS is generally diagnosed by excluding other conditions and may follow an infection that may or may not have been viral and which may be carried by the affected individual.

It is most common between the ages of 25 and 45 years and women are affected more often than men. It is associated with easily induced and prolonged episodes of fatigue, often accompanied by other symptoms.

Post-viral fatigue can occur after an acute viral infection. Symptoms of fatigue can last weeks or months and may follow a relapsing course.

Reason for change: This is a new entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (13 October 2025)

Cirrhosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Complicated by hepatoma.
2. Infectious or autoimmune cause.

Discretionary

If secondary to alcohol or genetic cause, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Alcoholism
- Autoimmune disease
- Malignancy

Reason for change: Additional links have been added.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Clinical trials

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Participating in a clinical trial. This includes the use of drugs of any kind (e.g. oral, injected, parenteral, transcutaneous) and applies to healthy individuals participating as volunteers, for example in 'phase 1' clinical trials.

Discretionary

If a Designated Clinical Support Officer has examined and agreed the trial protocol, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Complementary therapy
- Transfusion

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Coeliac disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Colostomy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

For malignancy or inflammatory bowel disease.

Discretionary

If the reason for the colostomy is not of itself a reason to exclude and the stoma is healthy, accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Communication difficulties

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

1. **All donors must:**
   a. Fully understand the donation process.
   b. Give their informed consent to the process and to the testing of their blood for diseases that may affect its suitability for use.

2. **Third party interpreters:**
   If they are to be present at any part of the selection procedure where there is an exchange of confidential information between the donor and the qualified healthcare professional, they must:
   a. Understand the importance of providing an accurate and truthful translation of the information provided, to enable the tissue/cell establishment to comply with regulatory requirements.
   b. Not be personally known to the donor.
   c. Fully understand their duty of confidentiality and the confidential nature of any information obtained from the donor.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Disabled donor

Additional information

The UK Blood and Tissue Services are aware of their duties under Race Relations and Disability Discrimination Legislation and will, whenever and wherever reasonable, try to provide facilities for individuals whose first language is not English, or who have other difficulties in communicating. Potential donors with such difficulties are advised to seek advice from their local Blood and Tissue Service before offering to donate stem cells to see if their needs can be met.

Every donor must:

1. Complete a health and medical history questionnaire and undergo a personal interview performed by a healthcare professional.
2. Provide informed consent to proceed with the donation process. This consent must be given in the presence of the qualified health professional responsible for obtaining the health history. The qualified healthcare professional may be physically present or in communication with the donor by telephone.

A qualified healthcare professional may assist a donor in the completion of the health and medical history questionnaire and in understanding the consent statement and any other information provided by the Tissue Service. To facilitate comprehension, it is permissible to use alternative formats (e.g. a language other than English, audio, computer, Braille) for the donor information leaflets, the health and medical history questionnaire and consent statements. The donor must be able to clearly demonstrate they have understood this material. At present, there is no standardised way of assessing comprehension so this will be a personal judgement made by the qualified healthcare professional.

Use of third party interpreters:

It is permissible for any third party to act as an enabler by helping to reassure the donor and to assist in establishing effective communication between the donor and the qualified healthcare professional. The third party must not however be present during any exchange of confidential information, unless they are not personally known to the donor and understand the need to accurately and truthfully communicate all the information, including personal and confidential information, provided by the person giving consent. Confidential parts of the process include the evaluation of the health and medical history questionnaire, the medical interview and the obtaining of valid consent.

Rationale:

There is concern that the use of third parties during any exchange of confidential information between the donor and the qualified healthcare professional may compromise the confidentiality of the donor and the safety of the blood supply. Interpreters are often part of a close community, or a family member, and this may inhibit or embarrass the potential donor in any confidential exchange of information. This may result in the non-disclosure of sensitive information that could affect the individual's eligibility to donate. If a third party is not fully aware of the need to accurately and truthfully communicate all the information, including personal and confidential information, provided by the person giving consent, this may make the interpretation of information incomplete and potentially put both the donor and any donated tissue at risk. There is also a requirement to communicate the results of any testing performed by the Tissue Services that may be of relevance to the donor's health in a way that protects their confidentiality. The continuing availability of an independent interpreter, to maintain donor confidentiality, should be taken into account when deciding if an individual donor may be accepted.

Reason for change: 1. To clarify that interpreters and translators do not need to understand all the regulatory requirements of the Human Tissue Act, but are aware of the importance of providing a truthful and accurate translation to enable the tissue/cell establishment to comply with regulatory requirements. 2. To clarify that interpreters and translators have a duty of confidentiality. 3. To clarify that consent for donation need not be signed by the donor, it can be taken by telephone.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 20 (17 March 2015)

Complementary therapy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

1. **Must not donate if:**
   The condition for which treatment was given is not acceptable.

2. **Therapies involving penetration by needles or other invasive procedures:**
   Must not donate if:
   Less than 3 months from completing treatment.

Discretionary

1. If oral or topical complementary medicines only and reason for which treatment was given is acceptable, accept.

2. For all other therapies involving penetration by needles or other invasive procedures:

   Performed within the NHS:
   If performed by a suitably qualified NHS healthcare professional on NHS premises, accept.

   Performed outside of the NHS:

   a. If performed by a Qualified Health Care Professional registered with the General Medical Council (GMC), Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), General Dental Council (GDC), The General Chiropractic Council (GCC), The General Optical Council (GOC), The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC), General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI), or The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) (which regulates: Arts therapists, Biomedical Scientists, Chiropodists/ Podiatrists, Clinical Scientists, Dieticians, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Occupational Therapists, Operating Department Practitioners, Orthoptists, Paramedics, Practitioner Psychologists, Physiotherapists, Prosthetists and Orthotists, Radiographers, and Speech and Language Therapists), accept.

   b. Treatments performed within commercial premises in the UK, accept.

   c. If performed within unlicensed, non-commercial premises in the UK, or for any treatment performed outside the UK more than 3 months ago, accept.

Supporting information

Additional information

Equipment that has been reused has passed infection from person to person. Therapists who are subject to discipline from statutorily constituted professional authorities are unlikely to re-use needles.

Commercial premises may be based in shops and clinics and also include operators running an acupuncture business from a residential premise such as their own homes. Under all current legislation, it is a criminal offence to trade as an acupuncturist without registration (licensing) or to be in breach of the relevant bylaws. Similar provisions are in place in Scotland in the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006. Some London boroughs also require a 'special treatment' license. It is expected that all premises will follow infection control processes including using single needles for treatments.

In the UK, local authorities are responsible for regulating and monitoring businesses providing tattooing, cosmetic piercings, semi-permanent skin colouring (micropigmentation, semi-permanent make-up and temporary tattooing), electrolysis and acupuncture. The focus of legislation covering local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982) is on minimising infection risks using compulsory registration of practitioners and premises and optional powers to make bylaws.

Healthcare professionals registered with statutory body may not need to register with the local authority as their statutory body is responsible for their regulation.

This guidance presumes that a validated NAT test for HIV, HBV and HCV is negative; if this test is stopped for any reason, the guidance will change.

When there is any doubt about infection being passed on, waiting 3 months means infections are more likely to be picked up by the tests used by UK Blood and Tissue Services.

Reason for change: The regulatory organisations for Pharmacists in the UK have been added. The HCPC ceased to be the regulatory authority for Social Workers in England in 2019. The list of health and care professionals regulated by the HCPC has been amended.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 45 (22 February 2022)

Congo fever

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 12 months following recovery or from return to the UK, if occurred abroad.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Contraceptive implant

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Contraceptive injection

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Contraceptive pill

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Corneal transplant

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Prion-associated diseases

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Coronary thrombosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes	Heart attack, myocardial infarct.
Discretionary	Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary If the underlying cause does not exclude, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Malignancy

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Dementia

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Dermatitis

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general
- Steroid therapy

Reason for change: To add a link to Alitretinoin.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 17 (31 March 2013)

Diabetes insipidus

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary If the underlying cause does not exclude, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Neurosurgery

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Diabetes mellitus

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: type 1 and type 2 diabetes, sugar diabetes

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Diarrhoea

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes

Diarrhoea and vomiting (D&V), enterocolitis, food poisoning, gastric flu, gastroenteritis.

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Chronic or associated with inflammatory bowel disease.
2. Less than 2 weeks since full recovery.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Disabled donor

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

1. **All donors must:**
   a. Fully understand the donation process.
   b. Give their informed consent to the process and to the testing of their blood for diseases that may affect the suitability of their tissues for use.

2. **Third party interpreters:**
   If they are to be present at any part of the selection procedure were there is an exchange of confidential information between the donor and the qualified healthcare professional, they must:
   a. Understand the requirements of the Human Tissue Act relevant to the donation process.
   b. Not be personally known to the donor.

Discretionary

Donors with difficulty in reading:

Ensure by questioning the donor that they:

1. Understand and fully complete the tick-box questionnaire.
2. Give valid consent to donation and to the testing of their blood for diseases that may affect its suitability for use.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Spina bifida

Additional information

The UK Blood and Tissue Services are aware of their duties under Disability Discrimination Legislation and will, whenever and wherever reasonable, try to provide facilities for disabled individuals.

Every donor must:

1. Be provided with accurate educational materials, which are written in terms which can be understood by members of the general public.
2. Complete a health and medical history questionnaire and undergo a personal interview performed by a healthcare professional.
3. Provide written informed consent to proceed with the donation process which must be countersigned by the qualified healthcare professional responsible for obtaining the health history.

A qualified healthcare professional may assist a donor in the completion of the health and medical history questionnaire and in understanding the consent statement and any other information provided by the Tissue Service. To facilitate comprehension, it is permissible to use alternative formats (e.g. audio, Braille, computer or alternative language) for the donor information leaflets, the health and medical history questionnaire and consent statements. The donor must be able to clearly demonstrate they have understood this material. At present, there is

no standardised way of assessing comprehension so this will be a personal judgement made by the qualified healthcare professional.

Use of third party interpreters:

It is permissible for any third party to act as an enabler by helping to reassure the donor and to assist in establishing effective communication between the donor and the qualified health professional. The third party must not however be present during any exchange of confidential information, unless they are not personally known to the donor and understand the requirements of that part of the Human Tissue Act relevant to the donation process. Confidential parts of the process include the evaluation of the health and medical history questionnaire, the medical interview and the obtaining of valid consent.

Rationale:

There is concern that the use of third parties during any exchange of confidential information between the donor and the qualified health professional may compromise the confidentiality of the donor and the safety of the donation. Interpreters are often part of a close community, or a family member, and this may inhibit or embarrass the potential donor in any confidential exchange of information. This may result in the non-disclosure of sensitive information that could affect the individual's eligibility to donate. If a third party is not fully aware of the relevant aspects of the Human Tissue Act this may make the interpretation of information incomplete and potentially put both the donor and any donated tissue at risk. There is also a requirement to communicate the results of any testing performed by the Tissue Services that may be of relevance to the donor's health in a way that protects their confidentiality. The continuing availability of an independent interpreter, to maintain donor confidentiality, should be taken into account when deciding if an individual donor may be accepted.

Reason for change: This is a revised entry to clarify the use of interpreters by the Blood & Tissue Services.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Disease of unknown aetiology

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

See: is there is a specific entry for the disease?

Must not donate.

Discretionary

If safety and quality of the donation is unlikely to be affected, discuss with Designated Clinical Support Officer.

See **Additional information** below.

Supporting information

Additional information

When the cause of an illness is not clear, there is an unknown risk to any recipient of donated material.

In certain circumstances, the aetiology could be multi-factorial, although it is not clearly established, there are no concerns relating to person to person transmission. In these cases, cells could be accepted for clinical use, based on current available evidence, after taking into consideration the impact of the donation on the donor's health.

Regulatory information

This advice is a requirement of the EU Tissue and Cells Directive.

Reason for change: To clarify that if the safety and quality of the tissues and cells is not impacted, donation can be permitted.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 46 (16 March 2022)

Diverticulosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Drug treatment

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: medication

Essential information

Obligatory

See: any specific entry for the disease being treated or the drug taken.

The taking of some drugs may make a donor ineligible. This could be due to the underlying disease or to the medication.

Discretionary

Self-medication with some drugs (e.g. vitamins, aspirin, sleeping tablets) need not prevent a donation being accepted, providing the donor meets all other criteria.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Addiction and drug abuse

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (EDS)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: This is a new entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Electrolysis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Emphysema

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Endocarditis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Active infection.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general

Reason for change: This new entry replaces the previous entry for 'Subacute Bacterial Endocarditis'. It recognises that the cause of endocarditis is not always bacterial and the course is not always subacute.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Endometriosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Epilepsy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Recent onset and not fully investigated.
2. Secondary to malignancy or degenerative neurological disease.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Malignancy
- Neurosurgery

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Eye disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Active ocular inflammation.
2. History of malignancy.
3. Ocular tissue transplanted.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Autoimmune disease
- Central nervous system disease
- Glaucoma
- Infection, general
- Malignancy
- Ocular surgery
- Ocular tissue recipient
- Steroid therapy
- Tissue and cell allograft recipients

Reason for change: A link has been added for 'Malignancy'.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Eye drops

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Determine what they are being used to treat.

See: is there a relevant entry?

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Autoimmune disease
- Glaucoma
- Infection, general
- Steroid therapy

Additional information

Eye drops are used to treat a wide range of conditions, some of which would prevent the person from donating. It is important to know exactly why the drops are being used.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Factor V Leiden

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Fertility

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes

Infertility

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Has ever been given human gonadotrophin of pituitary origin.
2. The donor knows that they have ever been treated with Metrodin HP®.

Discretionary

If treated exclusively with non-pituitary derived gonadotrophins, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Hormone replacement and sex hormone therapy
- Prion-associated diseases

Additional information

The use of human gonadotrophin of pituitary origin (follicle-stimulating hormone [FSH] and luteinizing hormone [LH]) had stopped in the UK by 1986. The situation in other countries varied so specific dates cannot be given.

Donors who have undergone egg donation, egg collection for fertility preservation, and surgical sperm retrieval should be assessed regarding any hormone treatment they have received.

There is no evidence that transfer of tissues (eggs or embryos) between individuals might lead to the spread of vCJD.

Metrodin HP® was withdrawn by the Committee on Safety of Medicines in 2003 and, following advice from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the precautionary principle has been applied to withdraw donors who have been treated with this product. Donors treated for infertility after 2003 in the UK will not have been treated with this product.

Reason for change: To update 'Additional Information' section by removing the section regarding a 12-week safeguarding time from treatment, and inclusion of additional information regarding any hormone treatment received. Addition of link to 'Hormone Replacement Therapy' entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 61 (13 October 2025)

Fibromyalgia

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: fibromyositis, fibrositis

Essential information

Obligatory

Tendons:

Must not donate.

Discretionary

All other tissues, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Disabled donor
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
- Steroid therapy

Additional information

Fibromyalgia is a common problem affecting soft tissues (muscles, tendons and ligaments) rather than bones or joints. It is often linked to sleep disorders.

Reason for change: This is a new entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 25 (13 July 2016)

Filariasis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Gall bladder disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Symptomatic.

Discretionary

If recovered or has asymptomatic gallstones, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general
- Malignancy

Reason for change: A link has been added for 'Malignancy'.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Giardiasis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

Additional information This is a local intestinal infection that does not affect donation.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Gilbert's syndrome

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

Additional information Gilbert's syndrome is an inherited defect in bilirubin metabolism. It is harmless but can cause jaundice in the donor.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Glaucoma

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Received transplant of sclera during glaucoma surgery.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Ocular tissue recipient
- Tissue and cell allograft recipients

Additional information

If surgery was performed after 1997 and the sclera was supplied through UK Transplant, this information will be stored on the National Transplant Database.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Gout

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Even if on treatment, accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Granuloma inguinale

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Growth hormone (GH)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Has ever received human pituitary derived growth hormone.

Discretionary

If treated exclusively with recombinant-derived growth hormone, accept. In the UK, this has been since 1987.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Prion-associated diseases

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Guillain-Barré syndrome

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Must not donate if:

1. Less than 24 months from resolution.
2. There has been any recurrence of symptoms.
3. The doctor who managed the donor cannot confirm a typical monophasic Guillain-Barré syndrome that recovered completely within 12 months.

Supporting information

See if relevant

If treated with immunoglobulin or plasma exchange:

- Transfusion

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Haematological disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Malignant.
2. Clonal disorder such as primary polycythaemia (rubra vera), essential thrombocythaemia or monoclonal gammopathy of unknown significance (MGUS).

Discretionary

If polycythaemia or thrombocytosis is secondary to a non-malignant/clonal condition, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Anaemia
- Haemoglobin disorders
- Immune thrombocytopenia
- Therapeutic venesection

Additional information

Clonal disorders result from the proliferation of a single cell. Because they have the potential to become malignant, they are treated in the same way as malignancy.

Reason for change: Monoclonal gammopathy of unknown significance (MGUS) has been added as an example of a clonal disorder. 'Additional Information' has been added.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Haematuria

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Due to infection.
2. Due to malignancy.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Kidney disease

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Haemochromatosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Haemoglobin disorders

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Has a sickle cell or thalassaemia syndrome.

Discretionary

Donors with traits for abnormal haemoglobin, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Anaemia
- Sickle cell trait
- Thalassaemia trait
- Transfusion

Reason for change: A link has been added to Transfusion.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Haemolytic anaemia

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

See: is there an entry for the condition?

If not, refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Autoimmune disease
- G6PD deficiency
- Haemoglobin disorders
- Hereditary elliptocytosis
- Hereditary spherocytosis
- Pyruvate kinase deficiency
- Transfusion

Reason for change: To include an entry for haemolytic anaemia.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Haemorrhoids

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: piles

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Headache

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Occasional headache

Discretionary Accept.

Regular headache

Obligatory

> **Must not donate if:**
>
> Not investigated.

Discretionary If investigated and diagnosis does not contraindicate donation, accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Heaf test

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate until:

Healing.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Healthcare worker

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

History of inoculation injury

Obligatory | **See:** Inoculation injury

No inoculation history

Discretionary | Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Henna painting

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: hina, mehndi

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Body piercing

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Hepatitis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Note:

Hepatitis has a number of causes including infection and hypersensitivity to drugs.

Our concern is with viral hepatitis.

Discretionary

If fully recovered from non-viral hepatitis, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis E
- Hepatitis of unknown origin

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Hepatitis A

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Less than 6 months from recovery of symptoms, or
2. Less than 6 months since the donor was diagnosed with hepatitis A infection following laboratory testing, or
3. If the donor tested positive for Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) RNA at the time of donation.

Discretionary

1. If less than 6 months from infection, but fully recovered, documented HAV RNA negative and anti-HAV IgG positive after recovery, accept.
2. For tissues that will undergo processing that has been determined to inactivate HAV prior to transplantation, accept.

See if relevant

- Travel

Additional information

Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver, spread by the faecal-oral route and by sewage-contaminated food and water. It can also be spread sexually. There is no long-term infection with the virus but there are reports of transmission by transfusion and organ transplantation. However, there have been no documented cases of transmission via tissue allografts. Infection may be symptom free but can be serious and occasionally fatal. The UK Blood and Tissue Services do not routinely test tissue donors for this infection, however testing at the time of donation may have been done.

The processing and decontamination protocols applied to certain types of tissue allograft may be sufficient to inactivate the Hepatitis A Virus. Tissue establishments should perform a documented risk assessment to determine which tissues and processes this applies to.

Current or former sexual partner of an affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. It is less than 6 months since a current sexual partner has recovered from symptoms of hepatitis A, or
2. it is less than 6 months since a current sexual partner tested positive for Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) RNA, or
3. It is less than 6 months since last sexual contact with a former sexual partner who had hepatitis A.

Discretionary

1. If less than 6 months from recovery of current sexual partner, since the current sexual partner tested negative for HAV RNA, or from last sexual contact with a former sexual partner, AND if shown to be immune, accept.
2. For tissues that will undergo processing that has been determined to inactivate HAV prior to transplantation, accept.

Additional information

There is a risk of transmitting the infection through sexual activity. Infection may be symptom free but can be serious and occasionally fatal. The 6-month exclusion allows any infection to run its natural course and for any risk of passing the infection on through donation to have passed.

The processing and decontamination protocols applied to certain types of tissue allograft may be sufficient to inactivate the Hepatitis A Virus. Tissue establishments should perform a documented risk assessment to determine which tissues and processes this applies to.

Person currently or formerly sharing a home with an affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. It is less than 6 months from recovery of the last affected person in the home, or
2. It is less than 6 months from the last contact with an affected person if no longer sharing, or
3. It is less than 6 months since a person sharing a home tested positive for Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) RNA.

Discretionary

1. If less than 6 months from recovery of the last affected person in the home, from the last contact if no longer sharing, or since a person sharing a home tested positive for HAV RNA, AND shown to be immune, accept.
2. For tissues that will undergo processing that has been determined to inactivate HAV prior to transplantation, accept.

Additional information

Because hepatitis A is spread by the faecal-oral route household contacts may easily become infected. Infection may be symptom free but can be serious and occasionally fatal. The 6-month exclusion allows any infection to run its natural course and for any risk of passing the infection on through donation to have passed.

The processing and decontamination protocols applied to certain types of tissue allograft may be sufficient to inactivate the Hepatitis A Virus. Tissue establishments should perform a documented risk assessment to determine which tissues and processes this applies to.

Immunisation

Obligatory

Known exposure:

Must not donate if:
Less than 6 months after vaccine or intramuscular immunoglobulin was given.

Discretionary

1. No known exposure to Hepatitis A Virus, accept.
2. For tissues that will undergo processing that has been determined to inactivate Hepatitis A Virus prior to transplantation, accept.

See if relevant

- Hepatitis B
- Travel

Additional information

Hepatitis A immunisation is advised before travel to parts of the world where other infections relevant to donating such as malaria are common. The donor should be asked about any relevant travel history.

Hepatitis A immunisation may be combined with Hepatitis B immunisation.

If less than 6 months from immunisation following known exposure, the donor may be accepted following individual risk assessment.

Reason for change: To add guidance for donors who test positive for HAV RNA at the date of donation, and to allow donation of

tissues where the processing and decontamination protocols applied have been determined to inactivate hepatitis A virus. To expand the 'Obligatory' and 'Discretionary' sections to add guidance for donors whose sexual partner tested positive for HAV RNA within 6 months of the date of donation, and to allow donation of tissues where the processing and decontamination protocols applied have been determined to inactivate Hepatitis A Virus. To expand the 'Obligatory' and 'Discretionary' sections to add guidance for donors currently or formerly sharing a house with an individual who had tested positive for HAV RNA within 6 months of the date of donation, and to allow donation of tissues where the processing and decontamination protocols applied have been determined to inactivate Hepatitis A Virus. To allow donation of tissues where the processing and decontamination protocols applied have been determined to inactivate Hepatitis A Virus.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 59 (26 November 2024)

Hepatitis B

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Person with current hepatitis B infection

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Additional information

Hepatitis B is a serious viral infection that can lead to chronic liver disease and liver cancer (hepatoma).

Individuals who are chronically infected are sometimes referred to as 'carriers'. They often have no, or minimal, symptoms associated with their infection.

Cases are often linked to place of birth, or mother's place of birth. The condition is very common in many parts of the world and vertical spread from mother to baby is often a major route of transmission. Hepatitis B may also be acquired by injecting drug use, sexual transmission and more rarely tattoos and piercings

Person with previously diagnosed (recovered) hepatitis B infection

Obligatory

Must not donate:

If less than 12 months since diagnosis.

Discretionary

If more than 12 months since diagnosis of HBV infection, and if they have successfully cleared the infection, accept.

Refer to the Designated Clinical Support Officer if advice on interpretation of test results is required.

See if relevant

- Tissues safety

Additional information

Leaving 12 months from diagnosis before testing allows sufficient time for a donor to clear any acute infection or develop markers of a chronic infection which will be detected on screening.

If less than 12 months from diagnosis, the donor may be accepted if the risk of delaying transplant outweighs the risk of transmission of hepatitis B subject to documented individual risk assessment.

Anti-HBc is required as a mandatory test under the EU Cell and Tissue Directive for cell and tissue donations, and is therefore a regulatory requirement. If the donor is HBsAg negative and HBV DNA negative, anti-HBs testing is not required. Anti-HBc must be carried out to comply with regulation and there is no requirement for anti-HBs levels. However, some international stem cell registries require anti-HBs status to determine donor suitability.

Current or former sexual partner of an infected individual

Obligatory

Obtain history (including time since last sexual contact, and the dates that HBV immunisation given).

Must not donate if:

Less than 3 months from last sexual contact.

Discretionary

If more than 3 months since last sexual contact, accept.

If less than 3 months since last sexual contact, and the donor is shown to be

naturally immune, accept.

Additional information

A donor with a period of less than 3 months since the last sexual contact with an infected individual may be accepted following individual risk assessment if risk of delaying transplant outweighs the risk of transmission of hepatitis B. A shortened time between last sexual contact and testing increases the risk of not detecting a recently acquired infection on screening.

The current partner of an individual with hepatitis B infection should have been offered immunisation. If the relationship started after the diagnosis of hepatitis B, immunisation may not have been carried out.

Current or former sexual partner of person who had recovered from hepatitis B infection at the time of last sexual contact

Obligatory

Obtain history (including time since last contact, date that the partner was diagnosed with HBV infection and the date that HBV immunisation of the donor commenced).

Must not donate if:

Less than 3 months from last sexual contact with the a partner who has been diagnosed with HBV infection less than 12 months ago.

Discretionary

1. If more than 3 months since last sexual contact, regardless of when the partner was diagnosed with the HBV infection, accept
   OR
2. If partner was diagnosed with HBV infection more than 12 months ago and has cleared the infection at the time of last sexual contact, accept.

Additional information

A donor who had sexual contact less than 3 months ago with a partner who had been diagnosed with the HBV infection less than 12 months ago at the time of sexual contact, may be accepted following individual risk assessment if risk of delaying transplant outweighs the risk of transmission of hepatitis B.

The current partner of an individual with hepatitis B infection should have been offered immunisation. If the relationship started after the diagnosis of hepatitis B, immunisation may not have been carried out.

Person sharing a home with a person with hepatitis B infection

Obligatory

Obtain history to determine if they are still sharing a home, and if not, the time since sharing ceased.

Must not donate if:

Less than 3 months since sharing ceased.

Discretionary

If more than 3 months since sharing ceased, accept.

If less than 3 months since sharing ceased, and the donor is shown to be naturally immune, accept.

See if relevant

- **Immunisation** below

Additional information

A person sharing a home with a person infected with hepatitis B within the past 3 months may be accepted following individual risk assessment if the risk of delaying transplant outweighs the risk of transmission of hepatitis B.

Immunisation

Obligatory	1. **If immunised following known exposure:** **Must not donate.** 2. **If immunised with no known exposure:** **Must not donate if:** Less than 7 days after the last immunisation was given.
Discretionary	1. **If immunised following known exposure:** If more than 3 months from immunisation, accept. 2. **If immunised with no known exposure:** If more than 7 days after the last immunisation was given, accept.
See if relevant	• Hepatitis A
Additional information	Immunisation post exposure may be with specific anti-HB immunoglobulin as well as with HBsAg. Generally, immunoglobulin would only be given after a known exposure to hepatitis B. There is no requirement to monitor the anti-HBs level. May be combined with hepatitis A immunisation. Sensitive assays for HBsAg may be positive following recent immunisation. This is why a 7-day deferral is required.

Reason for change: This entry has been modified in line with the recommendations of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Review Report published on 23rd July (2017).
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 29 (27 November 2017)

Hepatitis C

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Discretionary

If the individual has been told that they are HCV antibody negative, then samples should be taken to determine eligibility.

See if relevant

- Tissues safety

Additional information

Hepatitis C is a serious viral infection that can lead to chronic liver disease, liver cancer (hepatoma) and chronic fatigue syndrome. It has also been linked with malignant lymphomas and autoimmune disease. The infection is very easily spread by transfusion.

Individuals who are chronically infected are sometimes referred to as 'carriers'. They often have no, or minimal, symptoms associated with their infection.

Many cases are linked to previous drug use and, before the introduction of HCV screening of blood donations, to transfusion.

Individuals who have had hepatitis C infection in the past, and have been told that they have been successfully treated, will usually remain HCV antibody positive for many years. As a negative HCV antibody screening test is required before their donation can be issued, their tissue/cells cannot be used.

Current or former sexual partner of an affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 3 months from the last sexual contact.

Discretionary

1. If less than 3 months from the last sexual contact and the donor/donor family reports that their current or former HCV positive partner has been successfully treated for hepatitis C infection and has been free of therapy for at least 6 months prior to the last sexual contact and continues in sustained remission, accept.
2. If more than 3 months since last sexual contact, accept.

See if relevant

- Tissues safety

Additional information

Confirmation of the success of treatment of the HCV positive partner is not required.

Individuals who remain HCV RNA negative six months after completing treatment are likely to have been 'cured', with a risk of relapse of less than 1%.

In the UK, sexual transmission of HCV from an infected individual to a sexual partner is low, but not zero.

As the treated individual would have a very low (<1%) risk of relapse of infection and sexual transmission of the hepatitis C virus is rare, the transmission of hepatitis C from a successfully treated individual to a sexual partner is most unlikely. This guidance presumes that a validated NAT test for HCV is negative; if this test is stopped for any reason the guidance will change.

Person currently or formerly sharing a home with an affected individual

Discretionary	Accept.
See if relevant	• **Current or former sexual partner of an affected individual** above
Additional information	Hepatitis C is neither contagious nor spread by the faecal-oral route. It is usually only spread through a direct blood to blood route. For these reasons, household contacts do not need to be deferred.

Reason for change: To include guidance for persons with treated and successfully cleared past Hepatitis C infection. 'Additional Information' has been added.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 33 (30 September 2019)

Hepatitis E

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

Hepatitis E is an infectious hepatitis that is usually spread through contaminated food or water. Infection may be associated with travel to countries with poor hygiene/sewage conditions but increasingly, cases of hepatitis E are being identified in the UK usually due to consumption of undercooked contaminated meat. Hepatitis E can affect non-human animals and has been found in pigs in the UK. There have been reports of transmission by transfusion and transplant. Infection in healthy individuals is often symptom free but in people with underlying problems in their immune systems, it can be serious and occasionally fatal. The UK Blood and Tissue Services currently test for this infection.

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 6 months from recovery.

Discretionary

If less than 6 months from recovery and HEV RNA negative and anti-HEV IgG positive, accept.

See if relevant

- Travel

Reason for change: The obligatory deferral has been reduced from 12 to 6 months and a discretion to accept on full recovery added. Additional Information has been updated. The deferral for household and sexual contacts has been removed.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 31 (24 April 2018)

Hepatitis of unknown origin

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 24 months from recovery.

Discretionary

1. If more than 12 months, but less than 24 months from recovery, obtain history and blood samples and refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.
2. If more than 24 months from recovery, accept.

Additional information

If more than 12 months and less than 24 months from recovery:

1. If negative for all markers of hepatitis B, accept.
2. If HB core antibody is positive and HBsAg is negative, HBV DNA is negative and anti-HBs has been documented at more than 100 IU/L at some time, accept.

Sexual partner of an affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 12 months from recovery of partner.

Person sharing a home with an affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 12 months from recovery of the last affected person in the home.

See if relevant

- **Sexual partner of affected individual** above

Additional information

Most hepatitis of unknown origin will have been due to hepatitis A or hepatitis E (or non-viral causes). Additional testing for those who give a history of hepatitis between 12 and 24 months before donation will exclude the rare case of HBV which may have delayed clearance of infection and therefore will still present a risk through donation.

Reason for change: Clarification regarding hepatitis B markers has been added to the additional information.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 17 (31 March 2013)

Hereditary elliptocytosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: This entry replaces the previous entry for Elliptocytosis.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Hereditary spherocytosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Herpes simplex

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Herpes, genital
- Herpes, oral

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Herpes zoster

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, acute
- Infectious diseases, contact with

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Herpes, genital

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Fresh lesions.

Discretionary

If lesions are healing, provided there is no history of other sexually transmitted diseases, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Sexually transmitted disease

Additional information

There is no need to defer donors who have a sexual partner with herpes if the donor themselves is asymptomatic.

Reason for change: Addition of 'Additional Information' section, to include clarification regarding sexual partners.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 55 (15 November 2023)

Herpes, oral

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Fresh lesions.

Discretionary

If lesions are healing, accept.

Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Hip dysplasia

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Hormone replacement and sex hormone therapy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Definition/s

Hormone therapy includes any form of sex hormones, such as:

- Tablets, patches or topical gels as treatment for menopausal symptoms.
- Testosterone replacement therapy.
- Gender-affirming hormone therapy (masculinising or feminising hormones taken to support transition).
- Growth hormones used to treat children.

Obligatory

See: is there an entry for the condition for which the hormones are being given?

Must not donate if:

1. Used for malignancy.
2. A recipient of human gonadotrophin of pituitary origin.
3. A recipient of human pituitary growth hormone.

Discretionary

1. If treated with gonadotrophins that were exclusively non-pituitary derived, accept.
2. If treated with growth hormone that was exclusively recombinant, accept.
3. If treatment for menopausal symptoms or osteoporosis prevention, accept.
4. If treatment is for a shortage of sex hormones (e.g. in some cases of erectile dysfunction) and is not related to the treatment of malignancy, accept

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Growth hormone
- Haemochromatosis
- Prion-associated diseases
- Steroid therapy
- Thyroid disease
- Transgender and non-binary individuals

Additional information

There are many reasons why an individual may be deficient in a specific hormone. If this is related directly to malignancy, or to the treatment of malignancy, or to the use of pituitary derived hormones (these have been linked with prion associated diseases), the donor cannot donate in order to protect any person who may receive a donation from that individual. As well as hormones, donors may take other medication to modify the effect of sex hormones as part of gender-affirming treatment. This may include hormone blockers, such as anti-androgens.

Reason for change: Title changed. Added 'Include' and 'Additional information' sections, and amended 'obligatory' 'discretionary' and 'links' sections.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 61 (13 October 2025)

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate.

See if relevant

- Tissues safety

Current or former sexual partner of an affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 3 months from last sexual contact.

See if relevant

- Tissues safety

Additional information

HIV infection can be spread through sexual activity, including oral and anal sex. Despite regular sexual contact, transmission of infection may not happen. It may however not be transmitted for a long time into a relationship. This could be because the infection becomes more active in the infected partner, the uninfected partner acquires another infection or injury to a mucous membrane, or there is a change in the use of, or failure of, barrier contraceptives (condoms etc.). In the early stages of infection, the testing used by the Blood Services may not detect the virus allowing it to be passed on by transfusion or transplantation.

Waiting 3 months from the last sexual contact will ensure that any infection is picked up by the tests used by the Blood Services. This guidance presumes that a validated NAT test for HIV is negative; if this test is stopped for any reason, the guidance will change.

Person currently or formerly sharing a home with an affected individual

Discretionary

Accept.

See if relevant

- **Current or former sexual partner of an affected individual** above

Additional information

HIV is neither contagious nor spread by the faecal-oral route. It is usually only spread through a direct blood to blood or sexual route. For these reasons, household contacts do not need to be deferred.

Reason for change: This entry was updated in line with the recommendations of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Review Report published on 23rd July 2017. The current and former sexual partner entries have been combined. Additional information section added.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 29 (27 November 2017)

Human T-cell lymphotropic virus (HTLV)

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate.

See if relevant

- Tissues safety

Current or former sexual partner of an affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 3 months from last sexual contact.

See if relevant

- Tissues safety

Additional information

There is no defined infectious window period for HTLV. The risk of missing recent infection with individual sample testing is low after 3 months.

Person currently or formerly sharing a home with an affected individual

Discretionary

Accept.

See if relevant

- **Current or former sexual partner of an affected individual** above

Additional information

HTLV is neither contagious nor spread by the faecal-oral route. It is usually only spread through a direct blood to blood or sexual route. For these reasons, household contacts do not need to be deferred.

Reason for change: This entry was updated in line with the recommendations of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Review Report published on 23rd July 2017.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 29 (27 November 2017)

Huntington's disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: Huntington's chorea

Essential information

Obligatory	**If the diagnosis is uncertain:** Refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.
Discretionary	If diagnosis can be confirmed, accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Hydatid disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Hydrocephalus

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Has an indwelling shunt and there is evidence of shunt infection.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Neurosurgery
- Spina bifida

Additional information

Donated bone is cultured to exclude active bacterial and fungal infection. However it should not be collected from bacteraemic subjects.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Hypnotics

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: sedatives

Essential information

Includes	Sleeping tablets
Discretionary	Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Ileostomy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. For malignancy.
2. Inflammatory bowel disease.

Discretionary

If the reason for the ileostomy is not of itself a reason to exclude and the stoma is healthy, accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Immune thrombocytopenia

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Associated with malignancy.

Discretionary

If underlying cause of thrombocytopenia or treatment given is not a contraindication, accept. Refer to relevant entry. Refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer if further advice required.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Malignancy

If treated with immunoglobulin:

- Immunoglobulin therapy
- Transfusion

If treated with plasma exchange:

- Transfusion

If treated with immunosuppressive therapy:

- Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency

Additional information

Immune thrombocytopenia can be associated with malignancies, especially haematological malignancies such as chronic lymphocytic leukaemia.

Reason for change: Update of 'See if relevant' link due to the renaming of the 'Immunosuppression' entry as 'Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency'.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

Immunisation

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Non-exposed

Obligatory

See:

- Immunisation, live
- Immunisation, non-live

If you do not know if an immunisation is live or not, see the specific entry for the type of immunisation or refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Post exposure

Obligatory

1. **BCG:** see BCG
2. **Hepatitis A:** see Hepatitis A
3. **Hepatitis B:** see Hepatitis B
4. **Rabies:** see Rabies
5. **Smallpox:** see Smallpox immunisation
6. **Tetanus:** see Tetanus immunisation

Reason for change: Update the 'Hepatitis A' part of the 'Post-exposure' section to refer directly to the 'Hepatitis A' entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 44 (04 August 2021)

Immunisation, live

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

No exposure:

Must not donate if:
Less than 8 weeks from administration.

Discretionary

If more than 4 weeks from administration of a live immunisation, other than smallpox immunisation, and the inoculation site has healed, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- BCG
- Smallpox immunisation

Additional information

Live immunisations use living viruses or living bacteria that will stimulate the immune system but do not normally cause a severe illness. They may, however, cause severe illness in people who are already unwell and have a weakened immune system. By 4 weeks, any infection caused by the immunisation should have been controlled and so should not be passed on through donated material. There are special rules for BCG and smallpox immunisations.

Regulatory information

This advice is a requirement of the EU Tissue and Cells Directive.

Reason for change: Advice has been given from SACTTI that a period of four weeks is sufficient to ensure that there would be no circulating virus or bacteria at time of donation for live immunisations other than smallpox.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 08 (21 June 2011)

Immunisation, non-live

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Excludes

Post exposure - see Immunisation

Obligatory

No exposure:

Hepatitis B:

Must not donate if:
Less than 7 days after administration.

Discretionary

Other non-live immunisations, accept.

Supporting information

Additional information

Sensitive assays for HBsAg may be positive following recent immunisation. Full screening for hepatitis B may be required.

Note, hepatitis A immunisation may be combined with hepatitis B immunisation.

Non-live immunisations do not use material that can cause infection. This means there is no risk to people receiving donated material from a recently immunised non-exposed donor.

Reason for change: To remove Coronavirus Vaccination from obligatory section, and additional information section updated.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 57 (18 April 2024)

Immunoglobulin therapy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Immunosuppressed.

Donors with recovered immunodeficiency:

Refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Discretionary

1. If the intravenous or subcutaneous human immunoglobulin was given before 1980, accept.
2. Routine ante- and post-natal use of anti-D immunoglobulin, accept.
3. If single dose prophylactic immunoglobulin has been given, accept.
4. If treated with intravenous immunoglobulins after 1 January 1999, if underlying condition is not a contraindication, accept. Refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer if further advice required.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Rabies
- Tetanus immunisation

If treated with intravenous or subcutaneous human immunoglobulin:

- Transfusion

Additional information

Immunoglobulin used before 1980 is unlikely to be affected by vCJD.

Single dose immunoglobulin is unlikely to pose a significant risk for transmitting vCJD.

Since 1999, intravenous immunoglobulins prepared from UK donors have no longer been used, as a risk reduction measure for vCJD transmission.

Reason for change: To permit donation from donors who have received intravenous immunoglobulin after 1st January 1999, if the reason for treatment is not a contraindication.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 44 (04 August 2021)

Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Immunosuppressed or otherwise immunodeficient.

Discretionary

Donors with recovered immunodeficiency:

Refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Autoimmune disease
- Immunoglobulin therapy
- Monoclonal antibody therapy and other biological modalities
- Steroid therapy

Regulatory information

This advice is a requirement of the EU Tissue and Cells Directive.

Reason for change: The entry has been renamed from 'Immunosuppression' to 'Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency'. 'Obligatory' and 'Discretionary' guidance has been reorganised. 'See if relevant' links have been updated.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

Infection, acute

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

See: is there is a specific entry for the disease you are concerned about?

Must not donate if:

1. Infected
2. Less than 2 weeks from recovery from a systemic infection
3. Less than 7 days from completing systemic antibiotic, antifungal or antiviral treatment

Discretionary

Common viral respiratory tract infections such as colds, sore throats COVID-19 and seasonal influenza, if recovering, accept. See **Additional information** below.

Cold sores, genital herpes, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Congo fever
- Herpes, genital
- Herpes, oral
- Infectious diseases, contact with
- MRSA
- Myocarditis
- Steroid therapy
- Viral haemorrhagic fever
- West Nile Virus

Additional information

Many infections can be spread by donated material. It is important that the donor does not pose a risk of giving an infection to a recipient. Waiting 2 weeks from when the infection is better and seven days from completing systemic antibiotic, antifungal or antiviral treatment makes it much less likely that there will still be a risk of the infection being passed on.

There is no evidence that cold sores, genital herpes and common upper respiratory infections such as colds, COVID-19 (caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus) and sore throats can be passed on by donated material but it is still necessary to wait until any such infection is obviously getting better before allowing anyone to donate.

Three distinct types of influenza infection need to be considered separately: seasonal influenza, pandemic influenza and avian influenza. This guidance applies only to seasonal influenza; avian and pandemic influenza are out with the scope of this guidance. Donors with these diagnoses should not be accepted. Any outbreaks of avian or pandemic influenza will be communicated via public health alert guidance for professionals.

Seasonal influenza in the UK normally extends over a period of approximately 16 weeks during the winter months. Due to the spectrum of disease presentation, only the minority of infected individuals are tested for respiratory viruses and during the annual epidemics, most cases are diagnosed clinically. Systemic infection with viraemia is not a feature of seasonal influenza.

Unusual bacterial/fungal/protozoal infections:

Specialist microbiological advice should be sought when considering using cells and tissues from donors who have had unusual infections in the past, including those acquired outside of Western Europe. This should include infections common in immunocompromised patients, or infections which lie dormant or may be difficult to eradicate.

Reason for change: Clarification that coronavirus infection (COVID-19) should be managed as a common viral respiratory tract infection, following removal of 'Coronavirus infection' entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 63 Issue 2 (11 August 2026)

Infection, chronic

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Discretionary

1. **Acne:**
   Most donors with acne can be accepted.

2. **Chronic fungal infections:**
   a. If on local therapy for superficial infections only, accept.
   b. If on systemic antifungal treatment only for treatment of a localised, non-systemic fungal infection, and there are no complications, accept.
   c. If otherwise more than 7 days from completing systemic antifungal therapy, accept.

3. **Typhoid and paratyphoid:**
   If more than 7 days from completion of antibiotic course and last symptoms, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Steroid therapy

Additional information

Typhoid and paratyphoid are gastrointestinal infections which rarely have a chronic carrier state. It is usually caught while travelling. It is passed by the faecal-oral route and is not transmitted by tissue or cell transplantation.

Unusual bacterial/fungal/protozoal infections:

Specialist microbiological advice should be sought when considering using cells and tissues from donors who have had unusual infections in the past, including those acquired outside of Western Europe. This should include infections common in immunocompromised patients, or infections which lie dormant or may be difficult to eradicate.

Local fungal infections (e.g. nail infection or athlete's foot):

Systemic oral antifungal treatment may be prescribed to treat localised fungal nail infections or athlete's foot which are difficult to eradicate. Despite the systemic treatment, due to the fact that the infection is localised to the nails/digits, the risk to donated tissue/cells is considered to be remote.

Regulatory information

Part of this advice is a requirement of the EU Tissue and Cells Directive.

Reason for change: To add guidance for acceptance of donors on oral antifungal treatment for localised nail infections or athlete's foot.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 41 (07 October 2020)

Infection, general

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

See: is there a specific entry for the disease?

Supporting information

See if relevant

Decide if the infection is of short duration with no long lasting carrier stage (e.g. flu):

- Infection, acute

Or if lasting a long time (more than a few weeks) and possibly with long lasting carriage of the infecting organism (e.g. malaria or typhoid):

- Infection, chronic

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Infection, tropical

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Filariasis or leishmaniasis.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Congo fever
- Malaria
- South American trypanosomiasis, risk of
- Viral haemorrhagic fever

Other infections, see:

- Infection, general

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Infectious diseases, contact with

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

See: is there a specific entry for the disease with which there has been contact?

Must not donate if:

Within the incubation period for the condition or, if this is not known, less than 4 weeks from last contact.

Discretionary

1. If the infection is known to lead to permanent immunity (e.g. chickenpox, measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough) and there is a definite history of past infection with the disease with which contact has occurred, accept.
2. Contact with common upper respiratory tract infections (e.g. colds, sore throats, influenza, SARS-CoV-2), accept.
3. Contact with norovirus and other causes of diarrhoea and vomiting, provided the donor is symptom free, accept.
4. Contact with skin conditions which are not transmissible by donated material (such as scabies, ringworm, tinea) if no signs of infection, accept.
5. Individuals who have been prescribed prophylactic antibiotics after contact with meningitis, anthrax or chlamydia, provided they are symptom free, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Hepatitis
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis E
- HIV
- HTLV
- Infection, acute
- Meningitis
- Mpox
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Smallpox immunisation
- Syphilis
- Tuberculosis

Additional information

Many infectious diseases can be passed on through donated material, even before a potential donor develops any symptoms of the infection. This may lead to serious infection in the person receiving a donation.

Many diseases are not infectious and so are not normally a risk.

Contacts with meningitis or anthrax are often prescribed prophylactic antibiotics. These should prevent the disease from developing, so provided the potential donor is well, they may be accepted.

If in doubt, contact a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Reason for change: Update of 'See if relevant' links due to the removal of 'Coronavirus infection' entry and addition of relevant

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis.

Obligatory **Must not donate.**

Discretionary If mild, with no evidence of infection, tissues can be accepted subject to individual assessment. Refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer for advice if necessary.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general
- Malignancy
- Radiation therapy

Additional information The cause of these conditions is not fully understood and may include infection. Lesions caused by the disease can increase the risk of bacteria entering the blood stream.

Reason for change: 'See if Relevant' section has been added.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 44 (04 August 2021)

Inherited diseases

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

See: is there a specific entry for the condition?

If not, refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Inoculation injury

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Definition/s

An **inoculation injury** is a non-consented injury or assault in which an individual is exposed to potentially infective material that could be transferred through donation. The causes may range from a sharps injury to bites, punches and abrasions, or sexual assault where mucous membranes have been contaminated with human blood or other body fluids. It also applies to any inoculation injury with abnormal prions from any species.

Includes

Human bite

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. The incident involved any material containing abnormal prions.
2. Less than 3 months after the date of an inoculation injury, or contamination of mucosa or non-intact skin with blood or body fluids.
3. Under ongoing investigations following exposure, refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Animal bite, non-human
- Hepatitis
- HIV
- HTLV
- Prion-associated diseases
- Tissues safety
- Xenotransplantation

Additional information

Human blood or body fluids may be contaminated with infective material such that the infection may then be passed on by donated material. Waiting 3 months (if validated tests for infectious markers that include HBV, HCV HIV NAT are negative) helps to ensure that any infection is not passed on.

Donors who are under investigation may be accepted subject to individual risk assessment.

Reason for change: The 'Definitions' section was updated as part of the implementation of recommendations from the FAIR III report. Additional 'see if relevant' links added. 'Additional information' section updated.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 55 (15 November 2023)

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Jaundice

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Jaundiced or has a history of jaundice.
2. If the cause of the jaundice was viral, see the specific entry for that condition.
3. If the cause of the jaundice was not known, treat as Hepatitis of unknown origin.

Discretionary

1. If fully recovered from a non-viral cause of jaundice (this includes, but is not limited to, physiological jaundice of the newborn, gall stones and drug reactions), accept.
2. If due to Gilbert's syndrome, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Gall bladder disease
- Gilbert's syndrome
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis E
- Hepatitis of unknown origin

Additional information

Many things can cause jaundice. The concern is with infectious causes that might be passed on by donation.

Reason for change: In 'Obligatory' the link to Hepatitis B' has been changed to 'Hepatitis of Unknown Origin'. There have been other minor changes to improve clarity and to avoid the unnecessary exclusion of donors.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Kidney disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Acute nephritis

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 12 months since recovery.

Discretionary

All tissues:

1. Self-limiting renal disease (e.g. single attacks of glomerulonephritis, pyelitis) from which recovery has been complete, do not necessarily disqualify the donor.
2. If there is doubt about the diagnosis, refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Additional information

If the donor is well and has not received treatment to suppress the condition in the last 12 months, it is unlikely that their donation will pose a risk to the recipient.

Chronic nephritis

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Reason for change: To align the guidance with that for blood donors, the deferral period following an attack of 'Acute Nephritis' has been reduced from five years to 12 months.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 17 (31 March 2013)

Klinefelter syndrome

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Laser treatment

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

For malignancy.

Discretionary

1. If for basal cell carcinoma, treatment is completed and fully recovered, accept.
2. If for cervical carcinoma in situ, see Cervical dysplasia.
3. If for cosmetic purposes, accept when healed.
4. If laser refractive surgery to the cornea, accept when healed.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Basal cell carcinoma
- Cervical dysplasia

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 46 (16 March 2022)

Leishmaniasis

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: kala-azar

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Leukaemia

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (01 December 2007)

Malaria

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Definition/s

Resident: a donor who has ever been present in a malaria risk area (or areas), for a continuous period of 6 months or more (at any point in their lifetime).

Visitor: a donor who has visited or travelled through a malaria risk area (or areas) within the past 12 months.

Unexplained febrile illness: a donor who had undiagnosed fever (that could have been malaria) while present in, or within 4 months of leaving, a malaria risk area.

Previous diagnosis of malaria: a donor who previously had a confirmed diagnosis of malaria, at any point in their lifetime.

Malaria risk area: risk area for country as defined by the Geographical Disease Risk Index.

MAT: Malarial Antibody Test.

NAT: Nucleic Acid Test (for malaria).

Obligatory

1. **Must not donate (if no testing is available):**
   Applies to all groups as defined above.

2. **Must not donate if testing is performed less than 4 months since:**
   a. Anti-malaria therapy has been completed and symptoms caused by malaria have resolved, or
   b. Recovery of symptoms of unexplained febrile illness that could have been malaria, or
   c. Last present in a malaria risk area (or areas), or
   d. Since return from a malaria risk area (or areas).

Discretionary

1a. **Previous malaria:**

- If more than 4 months have passed since anti-malaria therapy has been completed, and symptoms caused by malaria have resolved, obtain a blood sample for MAT and NAT test. See information below in this section.

1b. **Unexplained febrile illness:**

- If more than 4 months from the date of recovery of symptoms of unexplained febrile illness that could have been malaria, obtain a blood sample for MAT and NAT. If MAT negative, NAT is not required to release tissues. See information below in this section.

1c. **Resident:**

- If more than 4 months since date last present in a malaria risk area, obtain a blood sample for MAT and NAT. If MAT negative, NAT is not required to release tissues. See information below in this section.

1d. **Visitor:**

- If more than 4 months and less than 12 months since return, obtain a blood sample for MAT and NAT. If MAT negative, NAT is not required to release tissues. See information below in this section.
- If more than 12 months since return: testing not required, accept.

Please note: consider *T. cruzi* or a tropical virus risk if the area is also identified as a risk area for these infections.

The results of MAT and NAT tests must be reviewed as a part of donor medical clearance to determine the suitability of tissues for clinical use. If the exposure, or, for donors with a history of malaria where treatment was completed and symptoms have resolved, was more than 4 months prior to donation and MAT is negative, NAT is not required. However, if MAT is positive and NAT is negative, in these donors, a risk assessment can be performed for accepting tissues for clinical release after seeking expert opinion.

2. **If tissue will be sterilised by irradiation post-donation:**

- Accept. MAT and NAT testing is not required.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Geographical Disease Risk Index for countries with a current endemic malaria risk

Additional information

Symptoms and signs of possible malaria include fever, flu-like illness, (including shaking chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness), anaemia, jaundice, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and cough.

SaBTO guidance confirms that irradiation of the tissue can be allowed as an alternative to malarial antibody testing.

Some countries have malaria as well as tropical viral risk. Both risks have to be considered if the donor had symptoms after travel or stay.

Reason for change: This guidance was updated based on advice from the SACTTI parasitology sub-group.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 52 (12 April 2023)

Malaria - contact in the UK

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Malignancy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Discretionary

1. If this was a basal cell carcinoma (rodent ulcer) and treatment is completed and all wounds are healed, accept. If any systemic medical treatment was required, refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer.

2. If the potential donor has a non haematological (non-clonal) premalignant condition (e.g. polyposis coli, prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN) or Barrett's oesophagus) that is being regularly monitored, or has had a similar condition cured and has been discharged from follow-up, accept.

3. If the potential donor has been cured of a carcinoma in situ (CIS) and discharged from follow-up, accept. Donors who have been returned to routine screening following treatment for cervical CIS can be accepted. Examples of CIS include cervical or vulval CIS, ductal CIS of the breast (DCIS) and Bowen's disease.

4. If the potential donor has had a diagnosis of melanoma in situ (including lentigo maligna), refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer to confirm they have not had an invasive melanoma (e.g. lentigo maligna melanoma).

5. Potential donors with a high risk of cancer due to family history or following genetic tests, even if had or having prophylactic surgery or on prophylactic medication (e.g. Tamoxifen), or on routine follow up, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Basal cell carcinoma
- Cervical dysplasia
- Transfusion

Additional information

Many malignancies spread through the blood stream and by invading surrounding tissues. Viruses that can be spread by blood and tissue donation can also cause some malignancies. For these reasons it is considered safer not to accept blood from people who have had a malignancy.

Basal cell carcinoma (rodent ulcer) does not spread through the blood, therefore people who have had successful treatment may donate.

The term carcinoma in situ (CIS) refers to a group of abnormal cells which have not invaded deeper tissue or spread to another part of the body. Donors who have been cured and discharged from follow up may donate. For cervical CIS, donors can be accepted if treatment is complete and any follow up smear, if performed, did not show abnormal cells. Regular screening smears are not defined as follow up.

Premalignant conditions are very common, particularly in older donors. Regular

monitoring should prevent donors with invasive malignancy from being accepted. However donors with a haematological clonal pre-malignant condition should not be accepted for tissue donation.

Melanoma in situ which has been cured by excision is not associated with a risk of metastasis. Patients with a confirmed diagnosis of melanoma in situ (ie Breslow thickness of 0 and no regression) do not require ongoing follow up beyond the initial post-operative appointment.

Lentigo maligna is a form of melanoma in situ found on the head and neck. It should be distinguished from lentigo maligna melanoma which is a true malignant melanoma.

Reason for change: Advice has been added for basal cell carcinoma treated systemically.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34

Malignant hypertension

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Mantoux test

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate unless:

Negative and no further investigations planned.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Tuberculosis

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Marfan syndrome

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Bone, structural:** **Must not donate.**
Discretionary	**Bone, non-structural:** Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Measles

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Infection, acute

Contact with an affected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Infectious diseases, contact with

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Meningitis

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Infection, acute

Contact with an affected individual

Discretionary | Even if on prophylactic antibiotics, accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Menopause

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Hormone replacement and sex hormone therapy

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 61 (13 October 2025)

Mental health problems

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Not able to fully understand and consent to the donation process and to the testing of their blood for diseases that may affect its suitability for use.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Communication difficulties

Additional information

Many people have mental health problems that can be controlled with regular medication. Providing individuals are well on the day of donation and have the mental capacity to give full informed consent, there is no reason why they cannot donate whether on medication or not. Individuals who are over anxious, depressed, manic or psychotic cannot always give valid consent, or fully understand why they are being asked certain questions.

Reason for change: To ensure that all donors with mental health conditions can donate if they are well enough to do so and have the mental capacity to give full informed consent.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 17 (31 March 2013)

Methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general

Additional information

Staphylococcus aureus is a widely occurring skin commensal organism. The carrier status or exposure of the donor is not relevant to donation.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Mitral valve prolapse

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Monoclonal antibody therapy and other biological modalities

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

See: is there an entry for the condition?

Discuss with a Designated Clinical Support Officer if:

The donor is being treated with monoclonal antibodies, to consider whether the treatment has an impact on the quality and safety of the donated tissue and/or has an immunosuppressive effect.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Autoimmune disease
- Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency

Additional information

The use of monoclonal antibodies and other biological therapies continues to expand. Care should be taken to understand the type of treatment and the indication, which may not be included in the **See if relevant** section above.

'Biological modalities' and 'biologics' are terms used for a broad class of therapeutics that are derived from or rely on living organisms, cellular components or genetic material.

In addition to monoclonal antibodies, biological modalities include:

- nucleic acids (e.g. gene therapies)
- cellular therapies (e.g. CAR-T cells)
- proteins and peptides used to regulate metabolic and bodily functions
- targeted degraders used to induce the elimination of disease-causing proteins

Further types of biological modality are in development (e.g. antibody-drug conjugates to deliver therapies to specific cells).

Consideration needs to be given as to whether the treatment the donor is on may be impacting the quality of the donated tissue (as long as the underlying condition is not itself a reason for deferral) and to assess whether the treatment may be leading to immunosuppression in the donor, in which case refer to the Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency entry.

Reason for change: This is a new entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

Mosquito-borne viruses

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Definition/s

Mosquito-borne virus risk areas are shown in the Geographical Disease Risk Index which includes details of the specific viral risks present.

The day that a donor leaves a risk area is defined as Day 0.

Includes

- Chikungunya Virus, also known as CHIKV
- Dengue Virus, also known as Dengue Fever
- Yellow Fever, also known as YF
- Zika Virus, also known as ZIKV, and Zika Virus Fever

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. It is less than 4 months since the donor has been diagnosed with Chikungunya, Dengue, Yellow Fever or Zika virus infection.
2. It is less than 4 months since the donor was last in a mosquito-borne virus risk area and the donor has either had a history of symptoms suggestive of Chikungunya, Dengue, Yellow Fever or Zika virus infection whilst there or following their return to the UK.
3. In other cases, it is 28 days or less since the donor was last in a mosquito-borne virus risk area.

Discretionary

All donors may be accepted 4 months after their return from an affected area or resolution of symptoms. If the donor has not had a diagnosis of a mosquito-borne virus, nor has symptoms suggestive of infection, they may be accepted once more than 28 days have passed since they were last in a risk area.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Geographical Disease Risk Index for countries with a current mosquito-borne virus risk
- Infection, general
- Malaria
- South American trypanosomiasis
- South American trypanosomiasis, risk of

Additional information

Chikungunya, Dengue, Yellow Fever and Zika virus are spread by the day-flying mosquito species *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.

These mosquitos are typically found in tropical and subtropical regions including the Caribbean, South and Central America, Mexico, Africa, the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, Indian sub-continent, Hawaii and northern parts of Australia.

The range of *Aedes albopictus* is increasing into more temperate zones, leading to outbreaks of mosquito-borne virus disease in new areas. This includes seasonal outbreaks of Dengue and Chikungunya in parts of Europe. The GDRI entry for mosquito-borne virus risk areas will indicate whether a risk should be applied all year or can be applied seasonally.

Position statements on mosquito-borne viruses are available.

Chikungunya Virus:

Chikungunya is an alphavirus that can cause a wide spectrum of disease. This may range from no or minimal symptoms to death. Most commonly it causes arthritis (typically in the knee, ankle and small joints of the extremities), high fever and a maculopapular rash.

Chikungunya Virus is found in countries in Asia, Africa, Central and South America, and in the islands of the Caribbean. There is no evidence of person-to-person transmission except through blood transfer. Transplantation-transmission from an asymptomatic individual has not been documented. Nevertheless, restrictions after travel to a Chikungunya virus risk area were introduced to reduce any risk of transmission through blood or tissue donation.

Dengue Virus:

Dengue Virus is a flavivirus that typically gives rise to abrupt high fever with a range of accompanying symptoms.

Dengue fever (DF) is the most common insect-borne disease worldwide. Dengue is currently considered endemic in over 140 countries. Transfusion-transmission has been reported.

Overall, up to 75% of cases are asymptomatic or mild. If symptoms occur, they can range from non-specific acute febrile illness to severe disease including dengue haemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome. Mild cases may be misdiagnosed as other febrile illnesses.

Yellow Fever Virus:

Yellow Fever Virus is a flavivirus which is found in Africa, South America, Central America and parts of the Caribbean.

Symptoms of Yellow Fever include high temperature, headache, nausea and vomiting, muscle pains and backache. One in four individuals may suffer from jaundice and bleeding from the gastrointestinal tract and other sites.

Zika Virus:

Zika Virus is a flavivirus which was known to occur in Africa and parts of Southeast Asia. More recently, Zika Virus has been associated with epidemic outbreaks in the Pacific region and in the Americas. As well as mosquito-borne infection, Zika Virus can be spread through sexual transmission.

Infection is usually asymptomatic or presents as a mild self-limiting febrile illness. More severe disease and hospitalisation are rare but infection during pregnancy carries a high risk of congenital abnormalities in the baby. Zika Virus infection may be mistaken for Chikungunya or Dengue infections as these viruses often co-circulate.

Reason for change: Reduction of the deferral period from 6 to 4 months for donors who had visited a mosquito-borne virus risk endemic area and been diagnosed with, or had symptoms of, infection while there or following their return to the UK. Minor amendment to the 'Additional information' section.

Mpox

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: monkeypox, previously

Supporting information

Additional information

Mpox was previously known as Monkeypox. In November 2022, WHO recommended mpox as the new name for Monkeypox disease. Mpox is endemic in some African countries. During 2022, a multi-country outbreak was identified with cases in the UK, Europe, North America and other regions.

The incubation period of mpox is up to 21 days. The initial symptom are fever, myalgia, fatigue and headache. These symptoms are followed by a rash starting from the site of the primary infection, this rash develops into vesicles and pustules followed by scabs. Infectivity may start during initial symptoms and lasts until the rash clears and all scabs have dropped off.

Staff should be alert for donors who report rashes and illnesses consistent with mpox, regardless of sexual behaviour, travel history or other risk factors.

Mpox does not spread easily between people. Human-to-human transmission occurs through contact with:

- infectious material from skin lesions
- respiratory droplets in prolonged face-to-face contact
- virus-contaminated objects such as bedding or clothing

During the 2022 multi-country outbreak, the predominance of cases among men who have sex with men (MSM) and the distribution of the mpox skin rash at presentation, suggests mpox transmission is associated with direct contact during sex.

Contacts may have received vaccination, to reduce the risk of serious illness. Usually vaccination will be with Imvanex® or other third generation vaccine against smallpox. Contacts are eligible to donate once they satisfy the requirements of **Contact with an affected individual** and **Immunisation for contact or risk** above.

Healthcare workers may also have received vaccination to protect against mpox in the event of possible exposure to mpox during their work. They will be working in accordance with Infection Prevention and Control policies and with suitable personal protective equipment, which if not breached means they are eligible to donate.

Other recipients of vaccination for Mmox must be assessed according to **Immunisation for contact or risk** above.

Imvanex® is a live attenuated non-replicating third generation Smallpox vaccination. For donor selection purposes, this can be assessed as a non-live vaccine but primarily donors must be assessed according to their individual risk of exposure to mpox. The deferral of some donors for 4 weeks from the date of a non-live vaccination allows symptoms of mpox from prior exposure to become evident (incubation period up to 21 days) and encompasses the time for maximum efficacy of the immunisation (up to 4 weeks). Donors should be deferred until completion of a course of vaccination.

Donor information

If the donor has retrospectively reported contact with mpox within incubation period, donation could be discarded or seek public health advice to determine the risk.

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Discretionary

If the donor has recovered from confirmed or suspected mpox infection, and

- It is at least 28 days since the diagnosis of mpox was made, and
- It is at least 14 days since recovery, and the donor remains well, and
- It is at least 14 days since all skin lesions have healed, and
- It is more than 7 days since completing any antiviral or antibiotic therapy, and
- The donor has been discharged from all follow-up (including public health surveillance),

accept.

Additional information

Post donation illness:

Donors must be provided with information about contacting the tissue establishment if they develop any illness within 21 days after donation. Donation should be discarded.

Contact with an affected individual

Includes

- Individuals who have been identified by public health teams as a close contact of an individual with mpox.

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Discretionary

If it is more than 21 days since last contact, and

- The donor has no symptoms of mpox, and
- The donor has completed any isolation period, and
- The donor has been discharged from all follow-up (including surveillance by public health), and
- The donor fulfils the criteria in **Immunisation for contact or risk** below regarding vaccination, if applicable,

accept.

Additional information

Post donation illness:

If the donor has retrospectively reported contact with mpox within incubation period, donation could be discarded or seek public health advice to determine the risk.

Immunisation for contact or risk

Excludes

- Individuals who have received vaccination because they work in a health care setting – see 'Immunisation - no known contact' below.

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Discretionary

If the donor fulfils the criteria in **Contact with an affected individual** above, and:

- it is more than 4 weeks since the most recent dose of a non-live or attenuated smallpox vaccination (e.g. Imvanex®), and

- the course of vaccination (if more than 1 dose) is complete,

accept.

Immunisation - no known contact

Includes	• Individuals who have received vaccination because they work in a health care setting.
Discretionary	An individual who has received routine vaccination with Imvanex® or another third-generation smallpox vaccination in an occupational setting, can be accepted provided that they are not deemed to be at risk due to an exposure episode.
See if relevant	• Immunisation

Reason for change: The title and contents have been updated with the new name as recommended by WHO. Inclusion of sections for donors who have received vaccination either because they could be a close contact, have risk of exposure, or have received vaccination because they are health care workers. Additional Information applicable for the whole entry contained within one section.

Multiple sclerosis (MS)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Supporting information

Additional information | As the cause of multiple sclerosis is not certain and there is a possibility that there is an underlying infectious agent, donation is not permitted.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Mumps

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Infection, acute

Contact with an affected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Infectious diseases, contact with

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Muscular dystrophy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Bone, structural:

Must not donate if:
Osteoporotic.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Myasthenia gravis (MG)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Myeloproliferative syndrome

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: This entry has been added to clarify the eligibility of donors with this condition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Myocarditis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Not recovered.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Ménière's disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Neurofibromatosis (NF)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

History of malignant change.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Neurosurgery

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Discretionary

1. If carried out in the UK after 1992, providing the reason for the surgery is not itself a reason for exclusion, accept.
2. If burr hole surgery only, accept.
3. If it can be shown that dura mater was not used during surgery and there is no evidence of malignancy, the donor may be accepted by a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Malignancy
- Prion-associated diseases

Regulatory information

This advice is a requirement of the EU Tissue and Cells Directive.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Night sweats

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Unexplained.

Discretionary

If due to menopause, accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Non-specific urethritis (NSU)

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Acute NSU

Obligatory

See: Infection, acute

Chronic NSU

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory | Assess reason for treatment and see relevant entry.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Ocular surgery

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Eye disease
- Laser treatment
- Malignancy
- Ocular tissue recipient
- Tissue and cell allograft recipients

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Ocular tissue recipient

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

See: Prion-associated diseases

Must not donate if:

Has received a corneal, scleral or limbal tissue graft or limbal or corneal epithelial cells.

Supporting information

Additional information

If the surgery was performed after 1997 and the tissue was supplied through UK Transplant, this information will be stored on the National Transplant Database.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Organ donor

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Transfusion

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Organ recipient

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: This is a new entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 54 (04 July 2023)

Osteoarthritis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Osteogenesis imperfecta (OI)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Discretionary

Skin:

Accept for split skin allografts only; not suitable for the preparation of acellular dermal allografts.

Supporting information

Additional information

Osteogenesis imperfecta is a congenital disorder that results in defective connective tissue due to defects in the genes relating to production of Type I collagen or other connective tissue proteins. Pathology includes bones that fracture easily, loose joints, poor muscle tone and thin, discoloured sclera.

Reason for change: This is a new entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 25 (13 July 2016)

Osteomalacia

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Osteomyelitis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

1. **Must not donate if:**
   a. Less than 2 years from completing treatment and cure.
   b. Has chronic sinus.

2. **Exclude:**
   Previously affected bone.

Discretionary

If 2 years from completing treatment and cure, unaffected bone may be accepted.

Supporting information

Additional information

Sometimes it is difficult to be certain that all infection has been eliminated. Waiting 2 years minimises the risk of any infection being passed on by a donation.

Reason for change: Sometimes it is difficult to be certain that all infection has been eliminated. Waiting two years minimises the risk of any infection being passed on by a donation.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Osteoporosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Steroid therapy

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Ovarian cyst

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Malignant.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Malignancy

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Paget's disease of bone

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: osteitis deformans

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Painkillers

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Assess reason for treatment and see relevant entry.

Must not donate if:

Taken for a serious long-term illness.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Peptic ulcer

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes Gastric and duodenal ulcer and erosions

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Associated with malignant change.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Transfusion

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Perthes disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Pituitary extract, human

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes

Adrenocorticotrophic hormone, follicle stimulating hormone, gonadotrophin, growth hormone, luteinising hormone, thyroid stimulating hormone.

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Has ever received injection(s) of human pituitary extract.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Growth hormone
- Prion-associated diseases

Additional information

Human pituitary extracts have been contaminated with abnormal prions and have led to the spread of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). They have been used to treat growth hormone deficiency and infertility. They have also been used in diagnostic tests to see if other endocrine glands such as the thyroid and adrenal work normally. They have not been used in the UK since 1985 and it is thought that all those exposed to these extracts have been notified of their increased risk of CJD. It is uncertain as to when their use stopped in other countries.

Donors that have been given only synthetic pituitary hormones or gonadotrophin made from urine may be accepted.

Reason for change: Additional information has been added for clarity.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Platelet disorders

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory **See:** is there an entry for the condition?

Discretionary If not covered by a specific entry, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Haematological disease
- Immune thrombocytopenia
- Thrombocytosis

Reason for change: Some minor alterations have been made to improve clarity.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Pleurisy

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general
- Malignancy

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Poisoning

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

There is evidence that the individual (donor/or mother of cord blood donor) has ingested, or been otherwise exposed to toxic substances that could be transmitted in donated material in dosages that could endanger the health of recipients.

Discretionary

If the individual is being monitored following exposure and the levels of the agent in question are within safe limits, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Addiction and drug abuse

Additional information

Advice may be sought from the National Poisons Information Service if required.

Regulatory information

This is a requirement of the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) Guide to Quality and Safety Assurance for Tissues and Cells for Patient Treatment.

Reason for change: This is a new entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 30 (17 January 2018)

Polycythaemia

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**
Discretionary	If confirmed as secondary polycythaemia, accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Porphyria

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Suffers from porphyria.

Discretionary

If the potential donor suffers from acute intermittent porphyria (AIP), varigate porphyria (VP), hereditary coproporphyria (HCP), erythropoietic protoporphyria (EPP) or congenital erythropoietic porphyria (CEP), accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Hepatitis

Additional information

Porphyria cutanea tarda (PCT) is almost always an acquired condition associated with underlying liver disease, usually hepatitis of viral or unknown origin.

Reason for change: This is a new entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 11 (06 December 2011)

Pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP, PEP) for HIV prevention

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Donor has taken oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in the previous 3 months.
2. The donor has received an injection for PrEP in the previous 24 months.

Assess any donor using PrEP or PEP for tissue safety risks relating to sexual activity.

Discretionary

If:

- It is over 3 months since the donor last used oral PrEP or PEP, and/or
- It is over 24 months since the donor last received an injection for PrEP, and
- There is no other tissue safety risk,

accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- HIV
- Inoculation injury
- Tissues safety

Additional information

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP):

The use of PrEP to prevent HIV is increasing. Individuals taking PrEP are unlikely to be eligible to donate due to criteria within the Tissues safety entry. However, PrEP is also available via private prescription and/or online pharmacies and may be used by individuals who would not otherwise be deferred.

PrEP is normally given in tablet form but longer-acting injectable PrEP, e.g. cabotegravir (Apretude®), may also be used in individuals who are not suitable for oral medication. Cabotegravir injections are given on an 8-weekly basis to ensure adequate HIV protection. Low levels of cabotegravir can be detected for many months in treated individuals, even after injections have been stopped.

Use of PrEP may interfere with testing for HIV by delaying seroconversion or giving unclear results in a positive donor. For this reason, it is important that donors who have taken oral PrEP in the previous 3 months, or injected PrEP in the previous 24 months, are not accepted to donate, even if they do not have another tissue safety risk.

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP):

PEP has a similar mechanism of action to PrEP and may also interfere with testing results. In the UK, PEP is prescribed to people who have been exposed to someone who may have HIV. This includes through sexual activity or exposure through a needle stick injury. Donors who have received PEP will usually be ineligible to donate for the same reason they were given PEP.

If the underlying reason for taking PrEP or PEP warrants a longer deferral period,

this should be applied.

Reason for change: Addition of a 24-month deferral for recipients of injectable PrEP.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 61 (13 October 2025)

Pregnancy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Resulted in a malignant (invasive) hydatidiform mole.
2. Resulted in a non-malignant (non-invasive) hydatidiform mole and treatment and follow-up is ongoing.
3. It is less than 7 days from the last dose of methotrexate.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Transfusion

Additional information

Methotrexate is now increasingly used to medically treat ectopic pregnancy, to avoid surgery and protect the fallopian tube. A week is needed for any residual methotrexate to clear the system.

Reason for change: The addition of information about methotrexate.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Prion-associated diseases

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes

Sporadic, familial and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), Gerstmann-Strãussler-Scheinker disease, fatal familial insomnia.

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Diagnosed with any form of CJD, or other human prion disease.

2. Identified at increased risk of developing a prion associated disorder. This includes:

   a. Individuals at familial risk of prion-associated diseases (have had 2 or more blood relatives develop a prion-associated disease or have been informed following genetic counselling they are at risk).

   b. Individuals who have been told that they have been put at increased risk from surgery, transfusion or transplant of tissues or organs.

   c. Individuals who have been told that they may be at increased risk because a recipient of blood or tissues that they have donated has developed a prion related disorder.

   d. Recipients of dura mater grafts.

   e. Recipients of corneal, scleral or other ocular tissue grafts.

   f. Recipients of human pituitary derived extracts.

   g. **Since 1 January 1980:**
   Recipients of any allogeneic human tissue.

Discretionary

If the donor has had 2 or more blood relatives develop a prion-associated disease and, following genetic counselling, they have been informed that they are not at risk, accept.

This requires confirmation by a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Pituitary extract, human
- Transfusion
- Tissue and cell allograft recipients

Additional information

A Position Statement on Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is available.

Reason for change: To reflect guidance from the Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs. There is the same concern over a possible second wave of cases of vCJD from accepting donors who have received tissue or organ transplants, as there is over donors who have been previously transfused.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 23 (18 January 2016)

Psoriasis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

See: Autoimmune disease and Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency

Must not donate if:

1. Generalised or severe.
2. Associated with arthropathy.
3. There is secondary infection.
4. Immunosuppressed.

Discretionary

1. If the quality of the tissue being donated is not affected, accept.
2. If mild and only using topical treatment, accept.
3. If the donor is on immunosuppressive medication, see Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency.

Supporting information

Additional information

Psoriasis is primarily a skin condition caused by an autoimmune process. About 1 in 10 people with psoriasis may develop joint problems (psoriatic arthropathy). Sometimes the disease is treated with powerful drugs to suppress the underlying autoimmune process. This may alter the body's defence mechanisms to infection.

Donations may be accepted if the safety and quality of the tissues is not affected.

Reason for change: Update of links due to the renaming of the 'Immunosuppression' entry as 'Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency'.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

Pulmonary embolism (PE)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Malignancy

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Pyrexia

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: fever

Scenarios

Not related to travel in malarious areas

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Less than 2 weeks from an episode of pyrexia.

Discretionary

If related to a common cold or other upper respiratory tract infection from which the donor is now recovered or recovering, accept.

See if relevant

- Infection, general

Additional information

A raised temperature may be a sign of an infection, which could be passed on through a donation. Waiting 2 weeks from when the temperature returns to normal reduces the risk of infection being transmitted by the donation.

There is no evidence that common colds and upper respiratory tract infections can be passed on by donation but it is still necessary to wait until any such infection is obviously getting better before allowing donation.

Related to travel in malarious areas

Obligatory

See: Malaria

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Pyruvate kinase deficiency (PKD)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Q fever

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Rabies

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Infection

Obligatory

Must not donate.

See if relevant

- Animal bite, non-human

Immunisation - post exposure

Obligatory

Must not donate until:

At least 24 months post exposure and fully cleared by treating physician.

Immunisation - non-exposed

Discretionary

If non-exposed, accept.

Reason for change: To extend the deferral period post exposure to 24 months.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 40 (15 July 2020)

Radiation therapy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. For malignancy other than basal cell carcinoma.
2. For other treatments, refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.
3. Bone to be collected has been exposed.

Discretionary

1. If fully recovered and is acceptable according to Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency advice, accept.
2. If for basal cell carcinoma or ductal carcinoma in situ of the breast, all treatment has been completed, the donor has been discharged from follow-up and is eligible under the Malignancy guideline, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Basal cell carcinoma
- Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency
- Malignancy

Additional information

Radiation therapy is sometimes used for non-malignant conditions, particularly for some skin conditions. It is often used as a substitute for other treatments that work by suppressing the immune system such as high dose steroids and cytotoxic drugs. More information is likely to be required before a decision can be made as to if an individual can donate. This why a referral to a Designated Clinical Support Officer is required.

Reason for change: Update of links due to the renaming of the 'Immunosuppression' entry as 'Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency'.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

Radionuclides

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

1. **Radioactive iodine therapy:**
   Must not donate if:
   a. For malignancy.
   b. Administered in the preceding 6 months.

2. **Other treatment or investigation:**
   Refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Malignancy
- Thyroid disease

Additional information

In general, those used for diagnostic purposes are cleared within 24 hours. Some (e.g. radioactive iodine) have long half-lives and affected donors must not be accepted unless at least 6 months have passed.

Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Raynaud's syndrome

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

If linked to an underlying autoimmune disease, see Autoimmune disease.

Discretionary

Accept if:

1. There is no known underlying cause,
   OR
2. The underlying condition is known, and it is:
   a. Not autoimmune in nature,
      AND
   b. Not a cause for deferral.

Refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer for advice if required.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Autoimmune disease

Additional information

There are two distinct types of Raynaud's syndrome:

1. Primary Raynaud's disease where there is no known underlying cause. This form is more common and mild.
2. Secondary Raynaud's where the Raynaud's syndrome is linked to a known underlying disease (often autoimmune). This may also be called 'Raynaud's phenomenon'. If linked to underlying conditions other than autoimmune disease, case-by-case assessment within the given context is required.

Reason for change: Obligatory guidance updated, and discretionary guidance and supporting information added, to provide additional detail and clarity.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

Recipients of normal human immunoglobulin

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

See: Transfusion

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Hepatitis A
- Immunoglobulin therapy
- Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency

Reason for change: Update of 'See if relevant' link due to the renaming of the 'Immunosuppression' entry as 'Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency'.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

Reiter's syndrome

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary If fully recovered, accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Renal colic

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Symptomatic.
2. Under investigation.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Respiratory disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general
- Steroid therapy

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Retinitis pigmentosa (RP)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Disabled donor

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Rheumatic fever

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**See:** Autoimmune disease
Discretionary	If mild and the only treatment is nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), accept.

Reason for change: This entry is now linked to 'Autoimmune Disease'.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Ringworm

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

On systemic treatment.

Discretionary

If on local treatment only, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, general

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Rubella

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Acute infection

Obligatory | **See:** Infection, acute

Contact with an infected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Infectious diseases, contact with

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Sarcoidosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Acute sarcoidosis

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Not recovered.
2. Less than 5 years from both finishing all treatment and full recovery.

Discretionary

If more than 5 years since finishing all treatment and full recovery, accept.

Additional information

Acute sarcoidosis is normally a self-limiting disease and does not require treatment in about 90% of cases. The cause is not known but there appears to be an immune defect that can run in families. Because of the uncertainty with this condition, only potential donors who have fully recovered and been off all treatment for at least 5 years may donate.

Chronic sarcoidosis

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Additional information

Chronic sarcoidosis can cause a range of problems, particularly with the lungs but also with the heart, that may pose risks for a potential donor. The treatments used may also cause immunosuppression. For these reasons, people with this condition should not donate.

Reason for change: To align the guidance with that for blood donors, new guidance to accept donors who required treatment but who have made a full recovery and have been off all treatment for at least five years has been added. 'Additional Information" has been added.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 17 (31 March 2013)

Sex worker

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Definition/s

In this context, **sex** is defined as vaginal, oral or anal sex with or without a condom/protective.

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Discretionary

If 3 months or more has elapsed since the donor last received money or drugs for sex, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Addiction and drug abuse
- Hepatitis of unknown origin
- HIV
- HTLV
- Infection, general

Additional information

This guidance presumes that a validated NAT test for HIV, HBV and HCV is negative; if this test is stopped for any reason, the guidance will change.

If received injectable drugs of addiction for sex, see Addiction and drug abuse as a 12-month deferral may apply.

Reason for change: This entry was updated in line with the recommendations of the SaBTO Donor Selection Criteria Review Report published on 23rd July 2017.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 55 (15 November 2023)

Sexually transmitted disease (STD)

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Herpes, genital
- Infection, acute
- Infectious diseases, contact with
- Syphilis
- Tissues safety
- Warts, genital

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

> **See:** is there is a specific entry for the disease?
>
> **Must not donate.**

Discretionary

If fully treated, at least 3 months from completion of treatment, accept. Additionally, for gonorrhoea, evidence of a test of cure after treatment is required. This may be a verbal confirmation, provided by the donor.

Current or former sexual partner of an affected individual

Obligatory

> **See:** is there is a specific entry for the disease with which there has been contact?
>
> **Must not donate if:**
>
> 1. Donor required treatment and it is less than 3 months since completing that treatment.
> 2. Donor did not require treatment and it is less than 3 months from the last sexual contact with the infected partner.

Discretionary

1. Donor did not require treatment and it is more than 3 months since the infected partner has completed treatment, accept.
2. Donor required treatment: if fully treated, and if it is at least 3 months from completion of treatment, accept. Additionally, for gonorrhoea, evidence of a test of cure after treatment is required. This may be a verbal confirmation, provided by the donor.
3. If the donor's sexual partner has been diagnosed with chlamydia (except lymphogranuloma venereum, see **2** above), genital warts or genital herpes and the donor is asymptomatic and not undergoing treatment or investigation, accept.

Additional information

Guidelines (NICE, BASHH) recommend that current sexual partners of lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) probable or confirmed individuals should receive testing and empiric treatment with a chlamydial regimen. They can be accepted 3 months after completion of treatment.

Reason for change: 'See if Relevant' links have been updated.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 61 (13 October 2025)

Shingles

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Herpes zoster

Contact with an affected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Infectious diseases, contact with

Reason for change: The links have been changed for clarity.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Sickle cell trait

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Skin disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. The condition is infected or infectious.
2. Malignant.

Discretionary

If malignancy was a basal cell carcinoma and treatment is completed, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Dermatitis
- Infection, general
- Malignancy
- Psoriasis

Reason for change: Malignancy has been added to Obligatory and additional links have been included.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Smallpox immunisation

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Immunised individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. The inoculation site has not fully healed.
2. Any secondarily infected site has not fully healed.
3. Less than 8 weeks from inoculation or from the appearance of any secondarily infected site.

Additional information

Smallpox immunisation is with live virus. By 8 weeks, the infection caused by the inoculation should have been controlled. If the wound has not healed it is possible that there may still be infection present. We do not want to pass the virus, or other infection, on to staff, or to people receiving tissues.

Contact with an immunised indvidual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Any secondarily infected site has not yet healed.
2. Less than 8 weeks after secondarily infected site appeared.

Discretionary

If no new skin lesions, accept.

Additional information

Close contacts of vaccinees (household or direct bodily contact) may become secondarily infected from direct skin contact with an infected inoculation site or from virus on clothing, bedding, dressings etc. If infection occurs, a new skin rash, blister or sore appears at the site of contact, which could be anywhere on the body. The rash represents a secondary vaccination site and presents exactly the same potential risk to patients and staff as that of a person who has been intentionally immunised.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Snake bite

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate until:

Recovered.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

South American trypanosomiasis

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: Chagas disease

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Supporting information

See if relevant

- South American trypanosomiasis, risk of

Reason for change: 'Chagas disease' added as an 'Also known as' term.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 62 (1 May 2026)

South American trypanosomiasis, risk of

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Born in South America or Central America (including Mexico).
2. Mother was born in South America or Central America (including Mexico).
3. Has had a transfusion in South America or Central America (including Mexico).
4. Has lived and/or worked in rural subsistence farming communities in these countries for a continuous period of four weeks or more.

Discretionary

1. For situations other than transfusion, if at least 4 months from the date of the last exposure, a validated test for *T. cruzi* antibody is negative, accept.
2. If transfused before 1 January 1980 and a validated test for *T. cruzi* antibody is negative on the donation blood sample, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Geographical Disease Risk Index for countries with a current *T. cruzi* risk
- Transfusion

Additional information

Infection with *T. cruzi* is very common in many parts of South or Central America and is often symptomless. It can be passed from an infected mother to her unborn baby and by transfusion. The insect that passes the infection on is only common in rural areas and the greater time that an individual has spent living in housing conditions with thatched roofs or mud lined walls which harbour the insect vector, the greater their risk of becoming infected. Testing is available and should be performed if there is a possibility of infection. Waiting 4 months from the last time of exposure allows time for the antibodies that are tested for to develop.

Camping or trekking in the jungle in South or Central America (including Mexico) is not considered of high enough risk to merit exclusion.

Reason for change: To reduce deferral period following last date of exposure from six to four months and align this entry with the 'Transfusion' entry. To also align this entry with the Geographical Disease Risk Index and change the reference to "Southern Mexico" to "Mexico".
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 41 (07 October 2020)

Spina bifida

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Has an indwelling shunt and there is evidence of shunt infection.
2. Uses a catheter.
3. Has a pressure sore.

Supporting information

Additional information

Donated bone is cultured to exclude occult bacterial and fungal infection. However, it should not be collected from bacteraemic subjects.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Spinal surgery

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Neurosurgery
- Transfusion

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Splenectomy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. For malignancy.
2. For a myeloproliferative disorder.
3. For immune thrombocytopenia (ITP).

Discretionary

1. If for trauma, when recovered, accept.
2. If taking prophylactic antibiotics, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Immune thrombocytopenia
- Malignancy
- Transfusion

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Steroid therapy

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Taking steroid tablets, injections or enemas, or applying creams over large areas.

Discretionary

1. If occasional use of creams over small areas of skin (<9% of body surface area) for minor skin complaints, accept.
2. If using steroid inhalers for prophylaxis, accept.
3. If using steroid eye drops, nasal spray or ear drops for control of allergic symptoms, accept.
4. **Discuss with a Designated Clinical Support Officer if:**
   Has been taking steroid tablets, injections or enemas, or applying creams over large areas.

For information on other situations where steroid therapy may be acceptable, see Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Autoimmune disease
- Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency
- Monoclonal antibody therapy and other biological modalities
- Skin disease
- Tissue and cell allograft recipients

Additional information

Steroid therapy in high doses causes immunosuppression. This may mask infective and inflammatory conditions that would otherwise prevent donation.

A small area of skin is defined as <9% (Wallace Rule of Nines). For guidance, 1% is equal to the area of the closed digits and palm of the donor's hand, and 9% is equal to the total area of one arm. Any area >9% is defined as large.

Regulatory information

Part of this advice is a requirement of the EU Tissue and Cells Directive.

Reason for change: Additional information updated to provide guidance on how to assess the area of skin being treated with steroids. Removal of deferral if donor required treatment with steroids in the 7 days prior to donation for reasons of allergy. Link to 'Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency' and 'Monoclonal antibody therapy and other biological modalities' entries added. Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

Stroke

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Disabled donor

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Syphilis

Tissue - Live Donors

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Discretionary

If fully treated in the past and confirmatory tests exclude recent infection, discuss with a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Additional information

The interpretation of syphilis testing is often difficult. The advice of an experienced microbiologist may be required before a decision on safety can be made.

Current or former sexual partner of an affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. The potential donor was diagnosed with syphilis (see **Affected individual** above).
2. It is less than 3 months since last sexual contact with an infected partner.

Discretionary

1. If it is more than 3 months from the last sexual contact with an infected partner, accept.
2. If it is more than 3 months since an infected partner has completed treatment, accept.

See if relevant

- Tissues safety

Reason for change: The deferral period after sexual contact with an infected person has been reduced to three months.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 55 (15 November 2024)

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Discretionary

If the tissues to be donated are not affected by the condition, subject to individual risk assessment, accept.

Discuss with Designated Clinical Support Officer for advice if required.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency

Reason for change: Update of 'See if relevant' link due to the renaming of the 'Immunosuppression' entry as 'Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency'.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

Tamoxifen

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**See:** Malignancy
Discretionary	If taken for non-malignant conditions, accept.

Reason for change: To clarify that use of Tamoxifen for non-malignant conditions is not a contraindication to donation.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 41 (07 October 2020)

Tetanus immunisation

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate if:** Less than 4 weeks from exposure.
Discretionary	If non-exposed, accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Thalassaemia major

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Thalassaemia trait

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Therapeutic venesection

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory **Must not donate.**

Discretionary If for haemochromatosis or confirmed secondary polycythaemia, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Haemochromatosis

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Threadworms

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Even if on treatment, accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Thrombocytosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Due to a myeloproliferative disorder.

Supporting information

Additional information

Platelet counts in excess of 500×109/L should be repeated. If found to be persistently raised, the donor should not be accepted and referred for investigation.

Reason for change: This entry has been added to clarify the eligibility of donors with this condition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Thrombosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary If the underlying cause does not exclude, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Malignancy

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Thrush, oral

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Unexplained.
2. Related to immunodeficiency.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, chronic

Reason for change: This entry has been revised to link discretionary acceptance to the current 'Infection: Chronic' entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 44 (01 August 2021)

Thrush, vaginal

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Related to immunodeficiency.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, chronic

Reason for change: This entry has been revised to link discretionary acceptance to the current 'Infection: Chronic' entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 44 (04 August 2021)

Thyroid disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Under investigation.
2. Malignant.
3. Less than 6 months from treatment with radioactive iodine therapy.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Autoimmune disease

Reason for change: The 'Obligatory' statement for anti-thyroid tablets has been removed. The reference in 'Discretionary' to treatment with thyroxine has been removed. A link to 'Autoimmune Disease' has been added.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 34 (12 November 2019)

Tissue and cell allograft recipients

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Excludes

Xenograft recipients, recipients of biological grafts of non-human origin and bio-prosthetic grafts, organ recipients.

Obligatory

All donors:

Must not donate if:

1. Dura mater transplanted at any time.
2. Ocular tissue transplanted at any time.
3. Any other allogeneic human tissue or cell transplanted since 1 January 1980.

Discretionary

1. If an autologous tissue, or cells, has been transplanted at any time, and there is no other reason to exclude the donor, accept.
2. If an allogeneic tissue (except dura mater or ocular tissue) or cell transplant was performed before 1 January 1980, and there is no other reason to exclude the donor, accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency
- Ocular tissue recipient
- Organ recipient
- Prion-associated diseases
- Transfusion
- Xenotransplantation

Additional information

The transfer of tissues or cells between individuals and species has led to the spread of infection. The above guidelines are intended to minimise these risks.

People who have received a tissue or cell transplant since 1980 are excluded from donation of any tissues except for heart valves, ocular tissue, pancreatic islets and skin as a precautionary measure against the risk of transmission of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in the same way as recipients of transfusion are.

Dura mater and ocular tissue allografts have been implicated in iatrogenic CJD. Iatrogenic CJD refers to the transmission of prions via inadvertent medical exposure. Recipients of dura mater and ocular tissue recipients are excluded.

Dura mater use stopped in the UK by 1993. The situation in other countries varied so specific dates cannot be given.

Tissue allograft recipients do not require immunosuppression. If the recipient was on immunosuppression for any other reason, see Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency.

Reason for change: Update of links due to the renaming of the 'Immunosuppression' entry as 'Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency'.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

Tissues safety

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Definition/s

Individual risk is based on the donor's sexual behaviour, including new partners and the number of partners in the 3 months prior to donation.

Partner risk is based on sexual contact with a partner who may, at a population level, be at higher risk of acquiring infection, as described in this entry.

Sexual contact is defined as oral, vaginal or anal sex.

Anal sex is defined as penile-anal intercourse only. It does not apply to oro-anal sex or the use of sex toys.

Chemsex is sex while using stimulant drugs taken for the specific purpose of enhancing sexual experience and reducing inhibitions. Chemsex does not refer to sex after using alcohol or recreational drugs for other purposes, nor the use of drugs (e.g. Viagra® or Cialis®) to treat erectile dysfunction.

Obligatory

Information must be provided so that those at risk do not donate.

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.
   b. You are HTLV positive.
   c. You are a hepatitis B carrier.
   d. You are a hepatitis C carrier.

3. **You must not donate for at least 12 months:**
   After stopping habitual use of injected drugs of addiction.

4. **You must not donate for at least 3 months if:**
   a. You have taken pre-exposure prophlyaxis (PrEP) / Truvada® by mouth to prevent HIV.
   b. You have taken or been prescribed post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) by mouth to prevent HIV.

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

5. **You must not donate for at least 24 months if:**
   You have received PrEP as an injection to prevent HIV e.g. cabotegravir (Apretude®).

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

6. **You must not donate for at least 3 months if:**
   a. You have received money or drugs for sex.
   b. You have injected, or been injected with, non-prescription drugs, even only once. This includes, for example, bodybuilding drugs or injectable tanning agents. You may be able to donate if a doctor prescribed the drugs. Please ask.
   c. You have injected, been injected with, or used non-parenteral Chemsex drugs.

7. **Individual risk criteria (FAIR):**
   You must not donate for at least 3 months if:
   a. You have taken part in chemsex activity, including the use of stimulant drugs. This risk applies for all sexual contact.
   b. You have been diagnosed with gonorrhoea. You must wait for at least 3 months after you have successfully completed treatment and been discharged from further follow-up.
   c. You have had more than one sexual partner in the last 3 months AND you have had anal sex with any of these partners.
   d. You have had anal sex with a new sexual partner. For the purpose of donor selection, a new partner is someone that you have not had sex with before or a previous partner with whom you have restarted a sexual relationship in the last 3 months.

8. **You must not donate for at least 3 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.
   c. A hepatitis C carrier.
   d. A partner who has received money or drugs for sex.
   e. A partner who has injected, or been injected with, non-prescription drugs. This includes, for example, bodybuilding drugs or injected tanning agents. You may be able to give if a doctor prescribed the drugs, please ask.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Addiction and drug abuse
- Hepatitis
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- HIV
- HTLV
- Infection, general
- Pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Syphilis

Additional information

The For the Assessment of Individualised Risk (FAIR) report (2020) recommended changes to blood donor selection policy to allow a more individualised risk-based approach. This approach was approved by ministers in devolved administrations and has now been implemented by the UK Transfusion Services.

The FAIR III working group recommended that a similar approach could be applied to tissue and cell donors in principle, acknowledging that the current donor selection policies already permit an individual risk assessment approach for life saving tissues and cells.

FAIR identified several factors associated with a higher risk of blood borne infections. These include the recent diagnosis of a bacterial sexually transmitted disease and the following sexual behaviours:

- new or multiple sexual partners
- anal sex
- participation in chemsex activity

Drugs used for chemsex include methamphetamine, mephedrone and GHB/GBL, but other drugs may be used (e.g. ketamine, poppers, cocaine). Chemsex is a high risk activity because it usually involves multiple sexual partners, sometimes for extended periods of time. The drugs involved also reduce inhibition leading to riskier sexual activity.

The drugs used in both pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV (PrEP and PEP) may interfere with the routine HIV screening tests carried out on all tissue and cell donors. For this reason, donors who have taken oral PrEP or PEP in the previous 3 months, or received injectable PrEP in the previous 24 months, should not donate. This applies even if they are otherwise eligible under individual risk criteria.

The deferral periods specified above may be reduced by doing individual risk assessment if the risk of acquiring an infectious disease may be outweighed by the risk of delaying a lifesaving transplantation.

Reason for change: Explanatory text relating to individual risk criteria (FAIR) has been removed from the 'Obligatory' section, as it was causing confusion.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 65 (14 December 2026)

Toxoplasmosis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Confirmed current active infection at the time of donation.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Infection, acute

Additional information

This is a common parasitic infection, often spread by cat faeces or eating undercooked meat. It can be spread through transfusion. It may have serious consequences or even prove fatal for the recipient. Usually it does not cause symptoms, as the body's immune system easily overcomes the parasite. Testing of tissue donors is not required.

Reason for change: To remove the requirement for six month deferral following resolution of infection.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 30 (17 January 2018)

Transfusion

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes

Treatment with blood components, products and derivatives.

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. **At any time the donor has:**
   a. Received, or thinks they may have received, a transfusion of blood or blood components in a country endemic for malaria or South American trypanosomiasis. See **Discretionary** below for exceptions.
   b. Has received regular treatment with blood derived coagulation factor concentrates.

2. **Since 1 January 1980:**
   a. Anywhere in the world, the donor has received, or thinks they may have received, a transfusion with red cells, platelets, fresh frozen plasma (FFP), cryoprecipitate. This includes mothers whose babies have required intrauterine transfusion.
   b. Had a plasma exchange performed.

3. **Before 1 January 1999:**
   a. Treated with prothrombin complex to reverse over-anticoagulation.
   b. Received intravenous or subcutaneous human normal immunoglobulin.

Discretionary

1. **If:**
   a. On medical inquiry, it is unlikely that the donor has been transfused, accept.
   b. Received, or thinks they may have received, a transfusion of blood or blood components before 1 January 1980, accept. See **4** below if transfused abroad.
   c. Treatment with human immunoglobulin has been limited to small quantities of specific immunoglobulin as prophylaxis (e.g. rhesus, tetanus, hepatitis, immunoglobulin), accept.
   d. Treated with prothrombin complex (PCC) to reverse over-anticoagulation after 1 January 1999, accept.
   e. Treated with intravenous immunoglobulins after 1 January 1999, if underlying condition is not a contraindication, accept. Refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer if further advice required.

2. **Autologous transfusion:**
   If only the donor's own blood has been used, accept.

3. **Heart valve donors only:**
   Provided the donor's total transfusion exposure is limited to less than 80 units of blood or blood components, accept. See **4** below if transfused abroad.

4. **Donor transfused before 1 January 1980 in a country endemic for malaria or South American trypanosomiasis:**

   a. Check the Geographical Disease Risk Index. If transfused in an at-risk endemic country, and a validated malarial antibody test and/or (as appropriate) a validated test for *T. cruzi* antibody is negative on the donation sample accept.

   b. If tissue will be sterilised by irradiation post-donation, accept (testing not required).

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Bleeding disorder
- Geographical Disease Risk Index
- Immunoglobulin therapy
- Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency
- Malaria
- Prion-associated diseases
- South American trypanosomiasis, risk of

Additional information

Transfused donors have previously contributed to the spread of some diseases. This happened with hepatitis C.

All transfused donors:

Transfusions in some countries may have put the donor at risk of malaria or South American trypanosomiasis. It is necessary to exclude these infections (with the exception of donations of tissues that are terminally sterilised) before accepting the donor.

Coagulation concentrates:

People who have received blood derived coagulation concentrates (these are made from the blood of many donors) regularly may have been put at risk of infections that can be passed through blood.

Donors transfused since 1980:

In the autumn of 2003, a UK recipient of blood, taken from a healthy donor who later developed variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), died from vCJD. Since then there has been a very small number of cases of infection with the vCJD prion in recipients of blood from donors who have later developed vCJD.

In view of this, people transfused or possibly transfused since 1980 should not normally be accepted. Because of shortages in supply, this does not currently apply to the donation of heart valves. Any history of transfusion after 1980 must be recorded and remain part of the documentation associated with the donation.

Plasma exchange results in the patient having been exposed to multiple donors. In view of the increased vCJD risk, donations may not be taken from individuals who have had a plasma exchange performed since 1980.

Commonly used PCCs, such as Beriplex or Octaplex, currently used in the UK, are prepared from non-UK donors. They are administered as one-off doses to reverse

anticoagulation or peri-operative prophylaxis. Since 1999, coagulation factors and intravenous immunoglobulin prepared from UK donors have no longer been used as a risk reduction measure for vCJD transmission.

Reason for change: Update of 'See if relevant' link due to the renaming of the 'Immunosuppression' entry as 'Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency'.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

Transgender and non-binary individuals

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Definition/s

Trans: an umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth. Trans people may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms including (but not limited to) transgender, non-binary or gender queer. Gender-affirming hormone therapy may be used as part of transition by transgender and non-binary individuals.

Includes

Gender reassignment, sex change.

Obligatory

Obtain history and refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer if necessary.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Hormone replacement and sex hormone therapy
- Tissues safety

Additional information

Assessment of the donor suitability should be according to the gender assigned at the time of donation.

An individual risk assessment is required with regard to potential effects on the donor, donated material and any potential risk to the recipient.

Consideration should be given to the medications used during gender re-assignment. As well as hormones, donors may take other medication to modify the effect of sex hormones as part of gender-affirming treatment. This may include hormone blockers, such as anti-androgens.

Reason for change: Title changed, definition amended, obligatory section amended, discretionary section deleted, link to 'Hormone Replacement and Sex Hormone Therapy' entry added, and additional information section updated.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 61 (13 October 2025)

Travel

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Geographical Disease Risk Index
- Infection, tropical
- Malaria
- South American trypanosomiasis, risk of

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Trypanosoma cruzi infection

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Supporting information

See if relevant

- South American trypanosomiasis, risk of

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Tuberculosis (TB)

Tissue - Live Donors

Supporting information

See if relevant

- BCG
- Heaf test
- Mantoux test

Additional information

Tuberculosis (TB) can be present in many tissues and be spread through the blood stream. It is sensible to exclude people who may have active disease from donating to prevent any possibility of transmitting the infection.

Individuals with latent TB do not have symptoms of active infection. Treatment is usually recommended for individuals aged under 65. Antibiotics used to treat TB can cause liver damage in older adults, and hence treatment may not be offered. If latent TB is thought to be drug resistant, or if the individual is taking immunosuppressive medication for any reason, they may be regularly monitored to check the infection does not become active.

Designated Clinical Support Officers should consider all the TB risk factors in combination, and along with any clinical signs, symptoms, or radiological evidence of TB, treatment during review of donor eligibility, along with the processing methodology applied.

Donors with past treated TB can be accepted if tissues are to be terminally sterilised or processed in a manner validated to remove viable donor cells. However, this does not apply to any bone that has been the site of previous infection.

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Infected.
2. Under follow-up.
3. Ever had clinically active tuberculosis.
4. Diagnosed with latent tuberculosis within past 2 years.

Discretionary

1. If donor with a history of tuberculosis that has been successfully treated, with treatment being completed at least 24 months previously, been discharged from follow-up, and has remained well and asymptomatic, refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer for individual risk assessment.
2. For donors with a diagnosis of latent tuberculosis currently not undergoing investigation, or more than 7 days after completion of treatment, refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer for individual risk assessment.
3. See **Additional information** below.

Contact with an affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate until:

Screened and cleared.

Discretionary

If the donor has been informed that they do not need to be screened, accept.

Reason for change: Obligatory section updated to include past active TB and latent TB. Discretionary section updated to require that donors with a past history of treated TB be referred to DCSO for individual risk assessment. Additional points added to Discretionary section and Additional Information section updated.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 58 (13 August 2024)

Turner syndrome

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Vasculitis

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory	**Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes Crimean-Congo Fever, Ebola Virus Disease, Lassa Fever, Marburg Fever.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Geographical Disease Risk Index for countries with a current endemic VHF risk.

Additional information

These infections have very high death rates and there is evidence that the virus may persist for some time after recovery. The 2014–2016 outbreak of Ebola in West Africa had increased understanding about the persistence of the virus in affected individuals and the number of asymptomatic individuals who may be able to transmit the virus to others.

There is no routine screening test for Ebola Virus (EBOV) currently available. There is an option to test donors serologically for the presence of anti-EBOV (antibodies) 2 months after the exposure event if a test becomes available. A reactive test would result in permanent deferral, a negative test would allow donation to proceed. Designated Clinical Support Officers may seek expert advice where necessary, under exceptional circumstances.

There is evidence of persistent virus in individuals who recover from several forms of VHF. For this reason, it is necessary to defer the sexual partners of these individuals.

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Has ever been infected.

Contact with an affected individual or travel to endemic country

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. Was present in an area during an active outbreak.
2. Under investigation for viral haemorrhagic fever.
3. Has been in contact with an individual who was present in an area during an active outbreak.
4. Was in contact with an individual infected with, or was under investigation for viral haemorrhagic fever.
5. Less than 6 months after return to UK from an endemic area when there was no active outbreak.

Under exceptional circumstances, the donor may be accepted subject to individual risk assessment. Refer to Designated Clinical Support Officer. See **Additional information** below.

Discretionary

Accept if:

1. More than 6 months after return to UK from an endemic area when there was no active outbreak at the time of visit.

2. The individual, or the contact person, under investigation had viral haemorrhagic fever infection excluded as diagnosis.

Sexual partner of an affected individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

The donor has had sex with an individual who had been diagnosed with a viral haemorrhagic fever at any time before their last sexual contact.

Reason for change: A permanent deferral has been introduced for donors who have had sex with an individual who has been diagnosed with a VHF, and definition of VHF provided.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 40 (15 July 2020)

Vitamin treatment

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Warts

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Even if on local treatment, accept.

Supporting information

Additional information Warts (including verruca) are caused by infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV) of which there are over 100 different types. They may occur on the skin and mucous membranes. The virus is spread by skin-to-skin contact and it can be very infectious. Genital warts are possibly the commonest sexually transmitted disease, but they do not necessarily indicate high risk sexually activity, so no specific deferral is required.

Molluscum contagiosum is also caused by a virus and can be managed in the same way as warts.

Reason for change: 'Additional Information' section added following FAIR III report.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 55 (15 November 2023)

Warts, genital

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Sexually transmitted disease

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Weight loss medication

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Includes

Oral or injectable drugs for management of weight loss.

Obligatory

1. **Oral medication**
   Must not donate if:
   Within the last 3 months, one or both of the following apply:
   a. The donor used medication that had not been prescribed for them by a healthcare practitioner licensed to prescribe.
   b. The donor used medication that had been obtained from a non-licensed source.

2. **Injectable medication**
   Must not donate if:
   Within the last 3 months, one or more of the following apply:
   a. The donor used medication had not been prescribed for them by a healthcare practitioner licensed to prescribe.
   b. The donor used medication that had been obtained from a non-licensed source.
   c. The donor had shared medication vials, pens or injection equipment with other users.

Discretionary

1. **Oral medication**
   Accept if:
   a. Neither of the conditions below apply, or
   b. Either or both of the conditions below apply, but the activity was greater than 3 months ago:
      i. The donor used medication that had not been prescribed for them by a healthcare practitioner licensed to prescribe.
      ii. The donor used medication that had not been obtained from a licensed source.

2. **Injectable medication**
   Accept if:
   a. None of the conditions below apply, or
   b. One or more of the conditions below apply, but the activity was greater than 3 months ago:
      i. The donor used medication that had not been prescribed for them by a healthcare practitioner licensed to prescribe.
      ii. The donor used medication that had been obtained from a non-licensed source.
      iii. The donor had shared medication vials, pen or injection equipment with other users.

Supporting information

See if relevant	• Tissues safety
Additional information	Several treatments for weight loss are licensed for use by the NHS including the oral medication orlistat (Alli®, Xenical®) and the injectable medications tirzepatide (Mounjaro®), liraglutide (Saxenda®) and semaglutide (Wegovy®). Other medications may also be licensed in different countries. Donors prescribed licensed medications through an NHS provider (or an equivalent licensed provider in their home country if the donor is a visitor to the UK) can be accepted provided they are/were using the medication correctly. Patients who are not eligible for NHS treatment may obtain weight loss medications from private providers. As long as the treatment has been prescribed by a registered healthcare professional and issued through a licensed pharmacy, the donor can be accepted. Donors who have used injectable medication from a non-licensed source (including from friends or family), or who may have shared medication vials, pens or injecting equipment, should be deferred for at least 3 months from last use of the medication; this time period is being applied using the precautionary principle. Donors who have purchased treatments online can be accepted provided they meet the conditions outlined above.

Reason for change: This is a new entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 64 (6 October 2026)

West Nile Virus (WNV)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Definition/s

West Nile Virus endemic areas are shown in the Geographical Disease Risk Index.

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

1. It is less than 6 months from a donor's return from a WNV endemic area and the donor has been diagnosed with WNV whilst there or following their return.

2. It is less than 6 months from a donor's return from a WNV endemic area and the donor has either had a history of symptoms suggestive of WNV whilst there or within 28 days of their return.

3. In other case, it is less than 4 weeks from a donor's return from a WNV endemic area.

Discretionary

1. All donors may be accepted 6 months after their return from an affected area. This may be reduced to 4 weeks if they have had neither symptoms nor evidence of infection. For donors who have been back in the UK for less than 4 weeks, who have not been diagnosed with WNV infection and who have not had symptoms suggestive of WNV infection, if a validated NAT for WNV is to be undertaken on the donated component(s), accept.

2. Donors who have been back in the UK for less than 6 months, who have had symptoms suggestive of WNV infection while abroad or within 28 days of return (but no firm diagnosis of WNV infection), if a validated NAT for WNV is to be undertaken on the donated component(s), accept.

Supporting information

See if relevant

- Geographical Disease Risk Index for countries with a current endemic WNV risk

Additional information

West Nile Virus is a flavivirus, similar to Dengue, which causes a wide spectrum of infection. This may range from no or minimal symptoms to death. It is geographically widespread, including areas in Europe and other parts of the world not affected by Malaria, and it has reached epidemic proportions in North America in recent years. There it has caused illness and death post transfusion and post transplantation of tissues and organs. It is spread by mosquitoes and so is more prevalent at times of the year when mosquitoes are active.

As the problem can vary both in relation to geography and time of the year, it is not possible to state areas from which donors need to be deferred and dates of disease activity. These are provided in the Geographical Disease Risk Index.

A position statement is available.

Reason for change: To increase the deferral of donors following infection with West Nile Virus or symptoms suggestive of West Nile Virus Infection to six months and to remove the requirement for a negative NAT test for these donors prior to donation.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 23 (18 January 2016)

Whooping cough

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: pertussis

Scenarios

Affected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Infection, acute

Contact with an affected individual

Obligatory | **See:** Infectious diseases, contact with

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Wilson's disease

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Accept.

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Xenotransplantation

Tissue - Live Donors

Also known as: xenografts

Essential information

Definition/s

Xenotransplantation: any procedure that involves the transplantation, implantation, or infusion into a human recipient of either (a) live cells, tissues, or organs from a non-human animal source, or (b) human body fluids, cells, tissues, or organs that have had ex vivo contact with live, non-human animal cells, tissues, or organs. Xenotransplantation products include live cells, tissues and organs.

Biological products, drugs, or medical devices sourced from non-living cells, tissues or organs from non-human animals, including but not limited to porcine insulin, porcine heart valves, and collagen matrices derived from acellular porcine, bovine or any other xenogeneic source (e.g. PelviSoft®, Bio-Oss®, Bio-Gide® and Surgibone®) are not considered xenotransplantation products.

Includes

Xenografts, heterografts, non-human organ perfusion.

Scenarios

Xenotransplant recipient

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

Material from a **living** non-human animal source has been directly or indirectly in contact with the donor's blood supply. This does not include animal bites.

Current or former sexual partner of a xenotransplant recipient

Obligatory

Must not donate.

Additional information

Exposure to non-human animal material, particularly when the person exposed is immunosuppressed, may result in infections that would not normally affect humans being passed on.

Reason for change: Further guidance re Recipient definition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 25 (13 July 2016)

Xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus (XMRV)

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Discretionary Donors who have been tested positive for XMRV, accept.

Supporting information

Additional information As there is no evidence that XMRV is implicated in human disease, a positive test is not a bar to donation.

Reason for change: This is a new entry.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 12 (24 January 2012)

Yaws

Tissue - Live Donors

Essential information

Obligatory | **Must not donate.**

Reason for change: Entry carried over from previous Edition.
Version details: TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 (03 December 2007)

Using these guidelines

Using these guidelines

Last updated in TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 62 (1 May 2026)

The Tissues (Live Donors) Donor Selection Guidelines (TL-DSG) apply to living donors giving giving tissues for therapeutic use.

The TL-DSG forms a constituent part of Chapter 20 of the Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services in the UK.

JPAC is responsible for these guidelines and receives professional advice from its specialist Standing Advisory Committees and other relevant expert groups. The TL-DSG is primarily reviewed and updated by the Standing Advisory Committee on Tissues (SACT). It is reviewed regularly to ensure that donations are of the highest quality and of sufficient quantity to meet the needs of recipients.

Comments about the content of the TL-DSG, including notification of errors, omissions and suggestions for improvements, should be sent to JPACOffice@nhsbt.nhs.uk.

On this page

- General principles
- Use of the A to Z index
- Guideline terminology
- Medication
- Version control

General principles

Important

These guidelines are for healthcare professionals who are trained in their use.

JPAC cannot answer individual donor queries or provide personal medical advice. Help with such matters may be available through a local blood and tissue service.

Donations must not be accepted from donors who exhibit health risks that are not listed in these guidelines without referral to, and acceptance by, a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Donors are selected to ensure that their donation is unlikely to harm any recipient.

The ultimate responsibility for the selection of donors rests with the Medical Director of each UK Blood and Tissue Service (UKBTS).

The immediate responsibility is with the Qualified Healthcare Professional who must ensure that the donor fulfills the respective selection criteria. When it is not clear from these guidelines if an individual donation is suitable, no tissue should be used without discussion with a Designated Clinical Support Officer.

The prospective donor must be evaluated for their eligibility to donate by a Qualified Healthcare Professional who has undergone appropriate training to use these guidelines to select or defer a donor. They must verify their assessment by signing the donation record.

Special note must be taken of the content of the Tissues safety entry.

It is the responsibility of the Qualified Healthcare Professional to ensure that donors clearly understand the nature of the donation process. Donors must also understand the health questions and other information presented to them. Donors are asked about confidential aspects of their medical history, hence great care must be taken over privacy and confidentiality.

Where there is separate guidance for different tissues, this is made clear. When there is a recognised risk to the recipient, the guidelines **must** be followed.

Use of the A to Z index

Any medical condition or possible contraindication to donation, elicited at any point during donation processing or storage, must be managed as indicated by its respective guideline entry. A complete list of available entries can be found in the A to Z index. Any donated tissue which, as a result, is unsuitable for clinical use must be clearly labelled as unfit for use.

If late information is provided by the donor, or through any other source, that the donor was medically unfit, this must be recorded and reported to the Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Any new health risks identified during the donor selection process should be notified to SACT so that they can be considered for incorporation into future revisions of the TL-DSG.

Guideline terminology

Please note, not all of the terms given below appear on every guideline entry.

Terms used for each section of an entry

Also known as	Alternative names for the entry.
Definition(s)	Clarification of key terms and concepts within the entry.
Includes	Any specific conditions, treatments or other factors covered by the entry.
Excludes	Any specific conditions, treatments or other factors **not** covered by the entry.
Obligatory	Reasons why a donor **must not** donate.
Discretionary	Reasons why a donor **may be permitted** to donate. These statements are conditional and all criteria that must be fulfilled will come before the final statement that they may be accepted. If the donor fulfils these requirements, as well as all others that apply, then they can be accepted.
See if relevant	Other guideline entries which may need to be consulted, depending upon the information provided by the donor.
Additional information	Further detail as to why any particular action is required.

Terms used within the text of an entry

Must not donate	The donor **must not donate** if any of the statements apply to them, unless a **discretion** clearly applies.

	If the deferral depends on time-related factors, the donor must be clearly advised when they will become eligible to donate again. If the deferral is not time limited (i.e. it is likely to be permanent) the donor must be clearly advised why they cannot donate.
See	The specified guideline entry **must** be consulted.
Refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer	When there is a need to seek further advice, the Designated Clinical Support Officer is a suitably trained person authorised to undertake this task by the Medical Director or their nominated deputy.

Information provided at the end of each entry

Reason for change	A brief summary of the most recent changes to the entry.
Version details	The Edition and Release number of the current version of the entry and its date of publication.
Document	A link to the relevant Change Notification detailing the most recent update to the entry, if applicable.

Medication

The underlying illness suffered by a donor, rather than the properties of any drug they are taking, is the usual reason for an ineligiblity to donate.

In general, traces of drugs in donations are harmless to their recipients. However, donors treated with certain drugs are deferred for periods associated with the pharmacokinetic properties of the drug. Examples are drugs used to treat acne, psoriasis, and some prostate problems. All such drugs have their own entry.

Version control

The TL-DSG is under the continuing review of SACT and the Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infection (SACTTI) to ensure that they are accurate and up to date.

All changes are the responsibility of the Professional Director of JPAC and have the approval of the Executive Working Group (EWG) and the JPAC Board.

Terms used for version control of the guidelines

Change Notification	This notifies the Medical Director and the Quality Manager of each of the four UKBTS to upcoming changes to the guidelines. The implementation of any changes is the responsibility of the individual Services.
Edition	An extensive revision of the entire set of guideline entries.
Release	Changes to the one or more entries in the current Edition of the guidelines which involve a change to the medical or scientific content.

Issue	• Changes to the one or more entries in the current Release of the guidelines which have been made to correct an error or omission, or • Subsequent changes to the medical or scientific content of additional entries in an upcoming Release that has already been made available prior to publication Each Release of the guidelines will be Issue 1 unless otherwise stated on the Source files page.

The Quality Manager of each UKBTS will be notified of upcoming changes by electronic distribution of a Change Notification.

The Quality Manager is responsible for effecting changes to locally held copies of the guidelines, or to information adapted from the guidelines for use within their respective service. An effective version control and change procedure must be in place to ensure only current versions of the guidelines are in use and that all authorised copies, electronic and paper, are traceable.

Live version of the guidelines (this website)

The website will always display the current version of each guideline entry, as shown in the A to Z index, and each entry will show the date of its most recent update. Changes will be published on the website on the effective date given in the relevant Change Notification.

Offline version of the guidelines (source files)

A source file is a downloadable copy of the guidelines. A source file containing the current version of the guidelines is always available on the Source files page.

In addition, whenever a Change Notification is distributed to indicate upcoming changes, an updated source file incorporating those changes will be made available. This will supersede the current source file on the effective date of the Change Notification and any previous source files will be removed.

Updates

Updates

The following table lists all updates to Edition 203 of the Tissue (Live Donors) Donor Selection Guidelines (TL-DSG). The linked Change Notification documents were issued to the UK Blood and Tissue Services (UKBTS) to indicate upcoming changes.

Please note that the dates listed below indicate the formal publication of updated guidelines on the website. The implementation of these guideline changes is the responsibility of each UKBTS and may vary accordingly.

For changes pending publication, see Upcoming changes to the guidelines.

If you would like to receive email notifications for upcoming and published updates, please contact JPACOffice@nhsbt.nhs.uk.

Change number	Title	Updated	Guidelines affected	Release
40-2026	Donor weight and weight loss medication (PDF only, 291KB)	6 October 2026	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone marrowCord blood**	67646159
41-2026	Immunosuppression and monoclonal antibody treatments (PDF only, 339KB)	6 October 2026	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)**	6764
42-2026	Raynaud's syndrome (PDF only, 210KB)	6 October 2026	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)**	6764
12-2026	Mosquito-borne viruses (PDF only, 454KB)	11 August 2026	**Geographical indexWhole bloodTissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone marrowCord blood**	578166626058
21-2026	Coronavirus infection (PDF only, 238KB)	11 August 2026	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)**	6663
09-2026	Changes to be introduced on the new JPAC website (PDF only, 864KB)	1 May 2026	**Geographical indexWhole bloodTissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone marrowCord blood**	568065625957
10-2026	Changes to entries in the GDRI and DSGs (PDF only, 418KB)	1 May 2026	**Geographical indexWhole bloodTissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone**	568065625957

			marrowCord blood	
32-2025	Sexually Transmitted Disease (PDF only, 197KB)	13 October 2025	**Bone marrowTissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Cord blood**	58646156
20-2025	Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (PDF only, 260KB)	13 October 2025	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)**	6461
21-2025	Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals (PDF only, 226KB)	13 October 2025	**Tissue (live)Tissue (deceased)**	6164
22-2025	Injectable Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention (PDF only, 293KB)	13 October 2025	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone marrowCord blood**	64615856
18-2025	Hormone Replacement and Sex Hormone Therapy (PDF only, 231KB)	13 October 2025	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)**	6461
19-2025	Infertility (PDF only, 241KB)	13 October 2025	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)**	6461
09-2025	Table of Immunisations (PDF only, 578KB)	30 April 2025	**Whole bloodTissue (live)Tissue (deceased)Cord bloodBone marrow**	7660635557
45-2024	Hepatitis A (PDF only, 300KB)	26 November 2024	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)**	6259
33-2024	Tuberculosis (PDF only, 111KB)	13 August 2024	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)**	6158
10-2024	Coronavirus Vaccination (PDF only, 311KB)	18 April 2024	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone marrowCord blood**	60575554
13-2024	Tropical Viruses (PDF only, 174KB)	18 April 2024	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone marrow**	605755
17-2023	FAIR III changes (PDF only, 605KB)	15 November 2023	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone marrowCord blood**	57555251
33-2023	Coronavirus Infection (PDF only,	15 November 2023	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue**	58565352

	378KB)		**(live)Bone marrowCord blood**	
14-2023	Tissue and Organ Recipients (PDF only, 247KB)	4 July 2023	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone marrowCord blood**	56545150
25-2023	Tuberculosis (PDF only, 232KB)	4 July 2023	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone marrowCord blood**	56545150
12-2023	Tropical Viruses (PDF only, 201KB)	19 May 2023	**Whole bloodTissue (deceased)Tissue (live)**	685553
13-2023	Mpox (Monkeypox) (PDF only, 313KB)	12 April 2023	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone marrowCord blood**	54525049
21-2023	Malaria (PDF only, 311KB)	12 April 2023	**Tissue (deceased)Tissue (live)Bone marrow**	545250

Appendices

Appendix 1: Medical criteria for the withdrawal of donations following information received after donation

Last updated in TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 02 *Issue 02* (3 December 2007)

General considerations

Circumstances that should have excluded donation may only become known after tissue has been taken. For the purposes of these guidelines, these circumstances are categorised below, along with appropriate actions.

The action to be taken will be determined by any entry relevant to the safety of the recipient. If there is no relevant entry, a consideration of recipient safety will underlie the action taken.

Procedures must be maintained by all UK Blood and Tissue Services to ensure prompt reporting of late donation information and, if necessary, withdrawal of donated tissue. Concerns arising from hearsay reports should be addressed by procedures established to ascertain the credibility of any such concerns.

If donations have been used before a withdrawal could be initiated, the Designated Clinical Support Officer must decide upon appropriate action. This will include, if there are likely to be severe consequences from having received the tissue transplant, contacting the clinician caring for the recipient and discussing notification of the recipient. In certain circumstances, a look-back procedure may need to be initiated.

Late notification of donation test results

This may occur because:

- The results of microbiological screening tests are brought into question.
- Additional information becomes available (e.g. the results of further testing).
- It is discovered that testing was not performed within the agreed procedures (e.g. as a result of audit or notification of defective reagents by the manufacturer).
- A report is received from the recipient's medical attendants of a post-transplant infection thought to have been transmitted by the donation.

Action: Inform the Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Notification of circumstances that should have triggered deferral at the time of donor selection

Circumstances include:

- Circumstances which place a donor at risk of infection with blood borne organisms (see Tissues safety entry).
- Donors in the 'at risk' categories relating to possible transmission of prion-associated diseases e.g. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) and variant CJD (vCJD).
- Donors with malignancy (other than those for which there is a discretion in the TL-DSG).
- Autoimmune Disease.
- Allergy.
- Donors with certain infectious diseases at the time of donation or who were in contact with and still

within the incubation period of an infectious disease at the time of donation.

- Donors with diseases of unknown aetiology.

Action: Inform the Designated Clinical Support Officer.

Appendix 2: Immunisations

Last updated in TL-DSG Edition 203 Release 65 (14 December 2026)

This appendix gives information on live immunisations and non-live immunisations that may have been received by potential donors.

Disease	**Comments and example adult preparations**	**Immunisation type**
Anthrax	Rarely given	Non-live
Chikungunya	There are two vaccines available to prevent Chikungunya: **IXCHIQ®** and Vimkunya®; see rows below. Ensure the correct guidance is applied depending on the vaccine given.If vaccine name not certain, treat as a **live** vaccine.	See below
Chikungunya	**IXCHIQ®**	Live
Chikungunya	Vimkunya®	Non-live
Cholera	Two cholera vaccines are available: **Vaxchora®** and Dukoral®; see rows below. Ensure the correct guidance is applied depending on the vaccine given.If vaccine name not certain, treat as a **live** vaccine.	See below
Cholera	**Vaxchora®**	Live
Cholera	Dukoral®	Non-live
COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)	All COVID-19 vaccines licensed in the UK are non-live	Non-live
Dengue	**Qdenga®, Dengvaxia®**	Live
Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib)	Menitorex®	Non-live
Hepatitis A	May be combined with typhoid or hepatitis B.Hepatitis A only: Vaqta®, Avaxim®, Havrix®Combined with typhoid: ViATIM®Combined with hepatitis B: Ambirix®, Twinrix®	Non-live
Hepatitis B	May be combined with hepatitis A.	Non-live

	If unexposed and more than 7 days from last immunisation, accept (see Hepatitis B).Engerix®, Fendrix®, HBvaxPRO®, PreHevBri®, Ambirix®, Twinrix®	
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Cervarix®, Gardasil®	Non-live
Influenza, intra-nasal	**Given by intra-nasal spray, from 2 to 18 years of age.Fluenz Tetra®**	Live
Influenza, injection	This is the annual 'flu jab', given by injection.Several preparations, updated annually.	Non-live
Japanese encephalitis	Usually given for travel.Ixiaro®	Non-live
Measles, mumps, rubella	**This is the 'MMR' vaccine.M-M-RvaxPro®, Priorix®**	Live
Meningitis	Meningococcal group C: NeisVac-C®, Menjugate Kit®Meningococcal group B: Bexsero®, Trumenba®MenACWY Quadrivalent vaccine: Menveo®, Nimenrix®, MenQuadfi®Combined with H. influenzae type b (Hib): Menitorix®	Non-live
Mpox	Imvanex® (MVA-BN) is a live attenuated non-replicating smallpox vaccine. It may be used for pre-exposure mpox prophylaxis in healthcare workers or for post-exposure prophylaxis in contacts of mpox cases.If given for mpox vaccination, treat as a non-live vaccine (see Mpox).	Non-live
Pertussis	Usually given to pregnant women, in combination with diphtheria/ tetanus/polio vaccine or diphtheria/tetanus vaccine.	Non-live
Pneumococcal disease	Usually given to people with specific risks (e.g. people who have had a splenectomy, people over 65).Pneumovax 23®	Non-live
Polio, injected	Usually given in combination with other vaccines including (depending on the preparation) diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and *Haemophilus influenzae*.	Non-live
Polio, oral	**Not in routine use in the UK but may be given abroad**	Live
Rabies	Usually given to non-exposed individuals if occupation or activity	Non-live

	has an exposure risk, or for some travellers to endemic areas.Rabipur®, Verorab®	
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	Abrysvo®, Arexvy®	Non-live
Shingles	Two shingles vaccines are available: **Zostavax®** and Shingrix®; see rows below.Please note, Shingrix® has replaced Zostavax® in the UK vaccination programme for individuals aged 60-79 years.	See below
Shingles	**Zostavax® for shingles prevention**	Live
Shingles	Shingrix® for shingles prevention	Non-live
Smallpox	**This requires an 8-week deferral. If given, see**Smallpox immunisation**. See also Mpox (above).**	Live
Tetanus	Usually given in combination with other vaccines including (depending on the preparation) diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and *Haemophilus influenzae*.	Non-live
Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE)	TicoVac®	Non-live
Tuberculosis	**This is the 'BCG' vaccine**	Live
Typhoid, injected	As a single preparation: Typhim Vi®Combined with hepatitis A: ViATIM®	Non-live
Typhoid, oral	**Usually given in capsule form.Vivotif®**	Live
Varicella (chickenpox)	**Usually given to healthcare workers.Varilrix®, Varivax®**	Live
Yellow Fever	**Stamaril®**	Live