

REMIT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SaBTO DONOR SELECTION CRITERIA WORKING GROUP

Remit

The working group will: “review the evidence base for donor selection, deferral and exclusion in the UK in relation to social behaviours that may increase the risk of acquiring specific blood-borne infections (HIV, HBV, HCV, syphilis). In addition the group will review the risk that these infections could be acquired following procedures that involve piercing of the skin as well as flexible endoscopy, a procedure specifically covered by blood safety legislation. It will make recommendations to SaBTO on the most appropriate ways to maintain a safe and sufficient supply of blood, tissues and cells. The review will make recommendations as to whether current selection criteria are appropriate acknowledging that patient safety is paramount. “

Its remit includes:

1. Evaluating the evidence for selection and deferral policies;
2. Defining the infections of interest, both known and unknown;
3. Reviewing the epidemiology on blood borne infections
4. Assessing the performance of current testing procedures;
5. Estimating the residual risks for specific blood borne infections;
6. Reviewing relevant policies in other countries including individual assessment;
7. Assessing new evidence on donor behaviour and motivation and their impact on safety.
8. Evaluating the operational impact of any recommendations;
9. Making recommendations for disseminating the outcome of the review.
10. Ensuring that recommendations are in line with current legislation and relevant regulations.

Terms of Reference

In formulating its advice, the working group will:

- take full account of the scientific evidence available, including the nature of uncertainties and assumptions used to reach conclusions;
- consider the impact of its advice on all stakeholders, including but not exclusively donors, patients, the UK blood services, the wider NHS, and the public
- take full account of the need to maintain the safety of blood, tissues and cells under the remit of the Precautionary Principle;
- aim to explore possible options to allow as wide a pool of donors as possible
- take account of views of interested parties on areas of concern, including concerns regarding discrimination, and address these as far as possible
- identify specific areas of research where further work is required to reduce uncertainty;
- be ultimately accountable to SaBTO
- not be addressing the selection criteria for solid organ donors

Modus Operandi

1. The working group will meet on at least three occasions during the review.
2. A smaller sub-group or groups will meet on a regular basis (in person or by teleconference) to draft papers and assess the available evidence.
3. Papers will be circulated no later than 7 days prior to any ordinary meeting.
4. Administrative issues will pass to the SaBTO Secretariat who will also maintain a document library.

For Information

5. Travelling expenses are payable for attendance at meetings in line with DH rates for individuals who serve on committees.

6. Members of the Working Group are asked to use public transport and to travel at standard rates.
7. Receipts must be submitted with claims.