



## Blood and Transplant

### The Update for May 2023

#### Anti-HBc testing

Since May 2022 NHSBT has been rolling out an additional test for hepatitis B following the recommendation of The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SABTO), and a ministerial instruction.

As well as our routine tests for hepatitis B, we will now also carry out an additional test, hepatitis B anti-core (anti-HBc), designed to determine whether a donor has had a previous Hepatitis B infection. This is being put in place to further enhance the safety of the blood supply by reducing the risk of occult hepatitis B. Currently these donors who have a confirmed positive test for anti-HBc are withdrawn from donation and will not be able to donate again.

From the 22 May 2023 NHSBT will move to a selective screening strategy. All donations from new and returning donors will be tested, as well as donations from regular donors who do not have a negative anti-HBc result on their donor record. This means that donations manufactured after this date will only be issued if they have a negative anti-HBc result, excluding in exceptional circumstances when a clinical concession is in place.

The UK has one of the safest blood supplies in the world. We are committed to continually improving standards through regular reviews of the latest science, and epidemiology of viruses and diseases, and make changes where needed.

Dr Su Brailsford - Consultant in Epidemiology and Health Protection  
Interim Clinical Director Microbiology and Public Health  
Honorary Professor, University of Nottingham

#### Transfusion 2024 virtual event on 19 June 2023

**Learn more about the Transfusion 2024 programme, progress made to date and next steps**

[Transfusion 2024](#) aims to improve transfusion safety and outcomes for patients through a range of exciting projects.

The morning session covers projects aimed at improving safe and appropriate transfusion including clinical and scientific education. The afternoon session has a pathology focus and an update on the RCI remote interpretation and e-requesting and e-reporting work.

You need to register separately for each session.

[Find out more about the event and how to register](#)

Louise Sherliker - Programme Director, Transfusion 2024

**The Update is produced by Hospital Customer Service on behalf of NHS Blood and Transplant**

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