

# Injection of non-prescription drugs

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## Condition

Injection of any drug or other substance not prescribed by a qualified physician or other healthcare professional. This encompasses, for example, drugs of addiction such as heroin, and use of non-prescribed injected anabolic steroids.

## Individual at risk

Recipient

## Guidance at RECRUITMENT for adult volunteer donor and maternal donor (cord blood donation)

UNACCEPTABLE if injected drugs of addiction within the previous five years

UNACCEPTABLE if injected other non-prescription drugs, such as anabolic steroids, within the previous six months

## Guidance at CT/WORK-UP

UNACCEPTABLE if injected drugs of addiction within the previous five years

If donor has injected androgenic steroid, or other non-addictive medications, then they may proceed at the discretion of the requesting transplant centre.

## Justification for guidance

Use of non-prescribed injected drugs of addiction is associated with a considerably higher risk of transmission of blood borne infectious diseases.

Although case reports of transmission of hepatitis C have been reported in users of androgenic steroids have been reported, the exposure risk remains very low and such donors may proceed at the discretion of the requesting transplant centre.

## References

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