

# Course of action for abnormal test results in blood donors

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VERSION 1

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## 1. Objectives and scope

The objective of this national procedure is to describe the conduct of the BTC in the event of an abnormal laboratory test result (marker or other...) according to the guidelines related to the testing of blood donations and the Principles of Good Transfusion Practices released In October 2012 by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health.

## 2. Abbreviations

BTC: Blood Transfusion Center

## 3. General procedures

Blood donors are notified, by the director of the BTC, of any abnormal laboratory test results detected following their donation.

The communication method and the management of the donor varies according to the nature of the anomaly found. The team in charge of the donor arrange the follow-up and orient the latter in order to provide the fastest and the most appropriate medical care. This management takes into account in particular the need for rapidly treating or protecting the donor or his entourage.

- In addition, all the information resulting from the investigations which could compromise transfusion safety are integrated into the BTC computer system.
- The actions carried out (interview, phone communication) are traceable in the donor electronic file.

## 4. Course of action in the event of a positive serological marker

Context	Initial actions	Information provided to the donor	Medical care by the BTC	Additional Measures
<b>1<sup>st</sup> result Positive marker</b>	*Making phone contact	*Schedule an appointment with the donor at the collection site for a free retesting (on a second sample) without giving further details if possible	* Collection of the second blood sample by the technologist without giving any specific information *Create a donor anomaly file with the need for follow-up	*Repeat the abnormal test(s) as soon as possible

## 5. Course of action in the event of a confirmed positive serological marker

Context	Initial actions	Information provided to the donor	Medical care by the BTC	Additional Measures
<b>2nd result positive marker</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*A reminder phone call and notification that there is an abnormality without further clarification</li> <li>* Schedule an appointment as soon as possible with the BTC director</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Inform the donor about the real risks incurred for him and his family</li> <li>*The need for additional tests to better evaluate the disease</li> <li>*Definitive or temporary contraindication according to the case</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Give and explain the results</li> <li>*Confirm the preventive measures to be adopted pending specialized care</li> <li>*Refer to a specialist or to the treating physician according to the case</li> <li>*Close and archive the «donor anomaly» file</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Report the disease to the competent authorities according to the internal procedure of the facility and to the applicable regulations</li> <li>*Update the electronic file: definitive or temporary contraindication</li> </ul>

## 6. Course of action to encourage a donor, who does not attend his/her appointment, to come for consultation

Context	Initial actions	Information provided to the donor	Medical care by the BTC	Additional Measures
<b>Donor does not response to the first phone call</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A reminder phone call to schedule an appointment for a serological retesting (to be repeated 3 times if necessary)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Inform the donor about the free test and its importance for him and for the validation of the donation</li> </ul>	see 4.	See 4.

## 7. Course of action in the event of a confirmed negative serological marker

Context	Initial actions	Information provided to the donor	Medical care by the BTC	Additional Measures

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> result negative marker</b>	*Making phone contact	*Announce that the results are perfectly normal *Schedule an appointment with the BTC director if the donor desires	*Explain and confirm that there is no biological problem *Close and archive the "donor anomaly" file, if applicable *Confirm the permission to resume donations	*Remove the contra-indication from the computer system
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## 8. Course of action in the event of an abnormal test result during the collection of a sample

Context	Initial actions	Information provided to the donor	Medical care by the BTC	Additional Measures
<b>1st result - CBC - Donor Immunohematology</b>	Making phone contact	*Medical information limited to the necessary understanding of the situation by the patient * Possible emergency care (e.g., severe anemia, hemopathies...) *Schedule an appointment for retesting and additional information	*Explain and give the results *Suggest an immediate retesting to confirm the abnormality *Refer the donor to a specialist or to the treating physician according to the case *Determine the decision regarding future blood donations: Donation possible or not *Close and archive the «donor anomaly file», if applicable	*Update the electronic file: definitive or temporary contraindication depending on the anomaly