

SaBTO

Advisory Committee on the
Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs

6th Floor, Department of Health and Social Care,
39 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0EU

25 April 2018

President Dr Albert Mifsud
British Infection Society
London Public Health Laboratory
Public Health England
The Royal London Hospital
80 Newark Street
London
E1 2ES

Dear President Dr Albert Mifsud,

SaBTO Microbiological Safety Guidelines

I am writing to inform you of the publication of a new revision of the guide to the microbiological safety of human organs, tissues and cells used in transplantation, now renamed as the SaBTO microbiological safety guidelines. The new guidelines are available on the SaBTO website:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/680745/sabto-microbiological-safety-guidelines.pdf

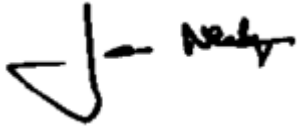
Since the last review in 2011 there have been major advances in the understanding and management of disease, with effective control of HIV and HBV and antiviral therapy for HCV which has allowed a more permissive approach to the assessment of risk in transplantation. The review reflects significant changes since 2011 including guidance for new and emerging pathogens and established infections not previously included. Each section has been updated with extensive revision to all areas, particularly donor assessment, interpretation of test results and assessment of infections present in the donor at the time of donation.

Significant changes in the new guidelines are highlighted in a summary of the major changes to the microbiological safety guidelines also available on the SaBTO website:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/680746/sabto-summary-of-changes-to-guidelines.pdf

I would be grateful if you could use your internal and external communication networks to ensure that the revised guidelines are circulated as widely as possible to the transplant community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Neuberger'.

James Neuberger
Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs