Hepatitis E virus and the UK Blood Services, 2016

2004
First proven Transfusion-Transmitted Hepatitis E virus (HEV) in UK

2010 onwards
HEV increase in diagnoses in general population

2014
SaBTO HEV working group considers the risk of hepatitis E transmission via blood

2015
SaBTO recommends HEV-screened components for specific patient groups. Allogeneic stem cell/bone marrow transplantation; Solid organ transplantation; UK blood services add neonatal recipients

Spring 2016
UK Blood Services begin testing some blood and all apheresis platelet donations for HEV RNA to meet requirements for HEV screened components for specific patient groups

Autumn 2016
SaBTO recommends screening of all blood, tissue, cell and organ donors for HEV

Seroprevalence in donors: 10.3% repeat donors HEV IgG positive

Prevalence audit in patients at risk of persistent HEV infection

IgM assay evaluation: sensitivity may depend on stage of infection

HEV antigen test utility

HEV in the general population, England and Wales (Source: PHE)
Proven TT-HEV

NHSBT/PHE study: 79 (0.04%) donors confirmed positive, 18 transmissions identified in study. Hewitt et al (2014) Lancet

Blood Borne Virus Unit research

27% of blood donations tested
0.04% confirmed positive
Monthly rates varied:
0.09% MAY to 0.01% NOV

17-76yrs
positive donors detected across all age ranges in males and females

Data source: Blood Borne Virus Unit, Public Health England, Emerging infection and zoonoses team, Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) and data supplied to the NHSBT/PHE Epidemiology Unit by NHSBT, NIBTS, SNBTS, WBS