

SaBTO

**Advisory Committee on the
Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs**

The Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO)'s Paediatric Components Working Group (PCWG) was established in October 2017 to review the current safety measures in place for transfusion recipients born on or after 1 January 1996. These safety measures were introduced to reduce the risk of transmission of variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease (vCJD) via blood components donated by people who may have been infected from consumption of meat or meat products from cows with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

PCWG reviewed the safety measures following an update of the blood transmission risk assessment for vCJD, prepared by the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) subgroup of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP), which revised downwards the number of future cases of vCJD predicted to occur due to transfusion of red cells, plasma and platelets. PCWG also considered ethical and long-term supply issues arising from the year on year increase in the number of individuals born on or after 1 January 1996

PCWG concluded its review in September 2018 but, before preparing their final report to present to the SaBTO committee later in the year, are currently seeking the views of stakeholders who may be affected by any proposed change to the safety measures and are not represented on the working group.

Information on proposed changes is being provided to key stakeholders that PCWG has identified and more information is available from the SaBTO secretariat by emailing mbSaBTO@dhsc.gov.uk.