



Association Bulletin #24-03

Date: August 2, 2024

To: AABB Members

From: Aaron Tobian, MD, PhD – President
Debra BenAvram – Chief Executive Officer

Re: Emergent Standards for the 34th edition of *Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services*

Association Bulletins provide a mechanism for publication of documents that have been approved by the Board of Directors for distribution to individual and institutional members, such as:

- Standards that were adopted after publication of the most recent edition of *Standards*
- Statements of AABB policy intended for distribution to members
- Guidance, recommendations, and reports that have been developed by AABB Committees or National Office staff for distribution to members

This bulletin describes updated requirements to Reference Standard 5.4.1A, Donor Qualification, in the 34th edition of *Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services (BB/TS Standards)* including a requirement to defer donors who have received the Chikungunya Vaccine, Live for 4 weeks.

On Thursday, November 9, 2023 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved IXCHIQ, a vaccine that protects against disease caused by chikungunya virus, for individuals 18 years or older who are at increased risk of exposure to chikungunya virus. On Wednesday, February 28, 2024, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued [recommendations for use of this vaccine](#) AABB's Donor History Task Force asked the FDA for a recommendation regarding the period of deferral for individuals who have received this live virus vaccine. The FDA responded that "...it would be appropriate to defer donors who have received the currently licensed live, attenuated Chikungunya virus vaccine for 28 days."

As a result of this communication, the Blood Banks/Transfusion Services Standards Committee (BB/TS SC) has updated line 14, "Immunizations and Vaccinations" in Reference Standard 5.4.1A, Requirements for Allogeneic Donor Qualification, to include a 4-week deferral period for individuals who have received this Chikungunya vaccine.



The BB/TS SC notes that this deferral may be implemented immediately. However, in recognition of the time needed to implement this update, accredited blood banks and transfusion services will have until February 7, 2025 to incorporate this into their written procedures.

Edits to the 34th Edition of Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services

Reference Standard 5.4.1A. Requirements for Allogeneic Donor Qualification

| Category | Criteria/Description/Examples | Deferral Period |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 14) Immunizations and Vaccines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receipt of live attenuated viral and bacterial vaccines [German measles (rubella), Chicken pox/Shingles (varicella zoster), <u>Chikungunya (IXCHIQ)</u>] | 4 weeks |