Reviewer’s report

Title: A critique on the Policy Statement of the American Academy of Pediatrics - Children as Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors - conditions too easy to fulfill

Version: 2 Date: 7 October 2012

Reviewer: Elaine Morgan

Reviewer’s report:

Major Revisions:
I agree with your conclusion that a predecisional minor sibling should not be used as a donor if there is an equal alternative source.

However, the current standard of care is to use the sibling donor as the first option most of the time because that provides the best outcomes to date. The decision to use a less standard approach may be appropriate in certain situations and may be the correct choice in the balance of risks and benefits, but cannot be proposed as an equal alternative currently.

The second issue is that of timing. It is rare that transplant can be delayed until the "donor" achieves decisional capacity without increasing the risk to the recipient.

I believe that your statements need to be reframed in view of the current standard of care and should address the uncertain balance of risks and benefits to all parties as well as the question of who can ethically make this difficult decision.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests