

Thursday, 22 January 2015

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For Action**1.1 Platelet Transfusion Mobile Site – Change of location**

During migration of the NHSBT Hospital & Sciences website a number of resources moved to a new URL. One of these resources was the Platelet Transfusion Mobile Site. The site is designed to give quick easy access to the national guidelines on platelet transfusions and was specifically designed for Smartphones and tablets so it can be accessed wherever it was needed.

If you or your clinical/laboratory colleagues had downloaded this site onto your Smartphone homepage the link will no longer work. You will need to download a new link.

Scan the code below or visit the following link to the new location <http://goo.gl/PHnpVH>



Updated postcards with this information to promote the resource to users are now available to order from <https://ww3.access-24.co.uk/>. Login and password details are available from your Regional Transfusion Committee Administrator.

We would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Aman Dhesi, Regional Lead PBM Team

1.2 Removal of “High-Titre” status from Red Cell Labels

Further to item 1.2 in the July Update we wish to remind you that NHSBT will be removing the High-Titre (HT) status from all red cell labels, in line with other UK Blood Services and recommendations made by Joint UK Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC) in the “Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in

the United Kingdom". This helps reduce the amount of unnecessary information on the label and simplifies inventories.

The removal of HT status from the labels of red cells will not compromise patient care. All components specified for neonatal/infant use are guaranteed to be tested and negative for high-titre anti-A/B (particularly important for neonatal exchange units as these are in CPD with more plasma than SAGM units). Platelet, Plasma and White Cell components will still be labelled HT negative as appropriate.

In the situation of emergency large volume transfusion for a neonate or infant < 1 year with no neonatal/infant specification red cells available in the hospital, if a non-Group O neonate/infant were given an adult Group O unit with unknown HT antibody status the risk from HT antibodies would be very low given the small volume of plasma in SAGM units.

The change will be implemented on Tuesday 10th February 2015. Red cells labelled before this date will be labelled with their HT status and will continue to be issued.

Action Required

Please ensure your local Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS) and Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) are amended to remove the requirement for red cells to be 'HT Negative'.

If you have any concerns, please contact your local Customer Service Manager.

Helen New, Consultant Paediatric Haematologist

For Information

2.1 NHSBT Platelet Supply Project Update

Thank you for reviewing your ordering practices for apheresis platelets as requested in previous communications. Many Trusts have started to reduce their requests. For those of you who would like further support to make the change, we have produced an information sheet for clinicians which outlines when apheresis platelets should be requested.

/media/27308/change-in-provision-of-apheresis-platelets_information-for-clinicians-05012015.pdf

In particular, there is no need to keep apheresis platelets as stock. In addition as noted in the December 2014 Update, pooled platelets in Additive Solution and plasma will be rolled out from Jan / Feb 2015.

Dr Kate Pendry, Clinical Director

2.2 NHSBT launches Customer Charter

Our Charter has been developed in response to customer feedback and puts our three core values; caring about the customers we serve, being expert in meeting our customer's needs and providing high quality service, products and experience to our customers at its heart.

It will form an integral part of our 2020 strategy which will enable NHSBT to further develop a customer focused culture ensuring that our partners in the NHS come to us out of choice.

Our commitment to breathe life into Our Charter will be through the measurement of individual and team goals. We will feed back our performance to our customers through a range of channels such

as; the Hospital and Science website, The Update, Blood and Transplant Matters, and our Annual Report.

Teresa Allen, Assistant Director for Customer Services recently said:

‘Our commitment to live the promises in our Charter will be through the day to day actions of our colleagues across NHSBT.

Our call to action for all NHSBT customer and donor facing teams is to develop their “living the charter” plans and add pledges into their personal development plans which describe the behaviours that will bring our charter to life, to save and improve patient's lives through shared values and aspirations.’

<http://hospital.blood.co.uk/customer-services/>

Teresa Allen, Assistant Director Customer Service

2.3 Update on Validation Exercise for Pathogen Inactivated (PI) Platelets

We completed the initial validation work on PI platelets in September 2014 so there are no PI platelets in our issuable stock. There is a possibility that we will do some further validation work on PI platelets in 2015 but we will communicate with you before we do this.

Jane Davies, Lead Processing Specialist

2.4 PBM Pilots

In some of the regions, PBM Team members in NHSBT are working more closely with individual trusts on specific initiatives and projects to help hospitals implement PBM measures e.g. a single unit policy. It is hoped that this will facilitate the development of usable PBM Tools and cost benefit business cases which could be accessed by Trusts who are looking for an evidence base for change. Further information on current PBM pilots can be found at: <http://hospital.blood.co.uk/media/27339/pilots-update.pdf>

Rebecca Gerrard, National Lead – PBM Practitioner Team

For Training

3.1 Changes to Transfusion Training provision

Introduction to changed provision

Hospitals and Trusts will have received the NHSBT flyer ‘Core Skills & Knowledge in Transfusion’ in the last few weeks. Further to this flyer, NHSBT would like to announce that from April 2015, following agreement with the National Commissioning Group (NCG), a number of places for Transfusion Science & Nursing training will be financed through a national contract and will therefore be ‘free’ to NHS Hospitals at the point of booking.

This national contract is aligned with our existing medical training commissioning process. The ‘free’ provision of the national contract aims to support NHS Hospitals by providing transfusion training courses which are representative of workforce needs. This information is determined through the existing LETB ‘commissioning process’ lead by Health Education England.

For 2015/16, 100 ‘free’ days of Transfusion Science and Nursing programmes and 135 ‘free’ days of Transfusion Medical programmes have been developed. These ‘free’ days will be allocated on a

'first come, first served' basis throughout 2015/16. When/if all the 'free' places have been booked, further bookings will be considered at the current cost of £100 per delegate per day.

How to Book NHSBT Training programmes

- To access the programmes, submit a Booking Form to learning@nhsbt.nhs.uk. The booking form is available via the website <http://hospital.blood.co.uk/training/>
- NHSBT will acknowledge requests, confirm booking arrangements and issue attendee joining instructions nearer to the course commencement date.

Planning Training/Workforce needs for 2016/17

NHSBT monitors the quality and consistency of our programmes through evaluation forms and other quality procedures. Attendees will be required to sign an attendance log at each event to quality assure the national contract. As such, attendee records will be reported on a quarterly basis.

To determine workforce needs for 2016/17, it is important that NHS Hospitals participate in the LETB 'commissioning' process at a Local level using their Local LETB Lead.

Tracy Thurgood, Head of Learning, Workforce - Organisation and Workforce Development

3.2 Training & Education Events and Courses

A full list of NHSBT training events, which are open to hospital personnel, is available on the our website at <http://hospital.blood.co.uk/training/index.asp>

If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact your local Customer Service Manager, Patient Blood Management Practitioner or either of us using the details below.

For further information please visit the NHS Blood and Transplant hospitals website on:

<http://hospital.blood.co.uk/>



Dr Kate Pendry
Clinical Director – Patients
Tel: 0161 423 4279
email: kate.pendry@nhsbt.nhs.uk



Teresa Allen
Assistant Director – Customer Services
Tel: 01865 38 1013
email: teresa.allen@nhsbt.nhs.uk