

Friday, 28 August 2015

**For Action**

- 1.1 Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (H&I) test request forms**
- 1.2 UKCSAG – Seeking new members**
- 1.3 Sickle Cell Disease and Blood Transfusion – an awareness campaign for patients, the public and healthcare professionals**

**For Information**

- 2.1 Group AB Cryoprecipitate**
- 2.2 2014 Annual SHOT Report (published 2015) and associated resources**
- 2.3 Guidance: Minimise Transmission Risk of CJD and vCJD in Healthcare Settings**

**For Training**

- 3.1 Training & Education Events and Courses**

**For Action**

**1.1 Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (H&I) test request forms**

Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics – Test Request Forms 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D and 3E have been updated and have been active since **3rd August 2015**.

The correct version numbers are as follows:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 3A H&I diagnostic testing                   | <b>FRM 745/3</b> (Replaces FRM745/2)  |
| 3B Organ transplant recipients and donors   | <b>FRM1008/3</b> (Replaces FRM1008/2) |
| 3C Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation | <b>FRM1010/3</b> (Replaces FRM1010/2) |
| 3D Platelet immunology                      | <b>FRM999/3</b> (Replaces FRM999/2)   |
| 3E Granulocyte immunology                   | <b>FRM1001/3</b> (Replaces FRM1001/2) |

Please check that you are using the correct versions of the Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics test request forms and withdraw ALL previous versions once you receive the new forms. In addition, we have prepared guidance notes (INF1182) to aid completion of these forms.

The forms and guidance notes can be downloaded and printed from the NHSBT Hospitals and Science website at: <http://tinyurl.com/h-i-forms>

For printed copies of our test request forms please contact your local H&I laboratory.

**Dr Andrea Harmer, National Head of H&I Services**

**1.2 UKCSAG – Seeking new members**

The UK Cell Salvage Action Group (UKCSAG) was established in 2006 to help support the wider implementation of cell salvage as an alternative to donor blood and to facilitate a UK approach to its use. The group reports to the Patient Blood Management Steering Group in England and the equivalent groups in the devolved countries. It consists of UK leaders in cell salvage, makes recommendations considered to be best practice and publishes resources to support the implementation and development of cell salvage services in hospitals.

Friday, 28 August 2015



## **Blood and Transplant**

The outputs of the group are available to all Intraoperative Cell Salvage (ICS) users through the JPAC website at: <http://www.transfusionguidelines.org/transfusion-practice/uk-cell-salvage-action-group>

The group is made up of cell salvage enthusiasts and includes doctors, operating department practitioners, nurses, transfusion practitioners and other specialists!

We have recently had a few long-standing members retire so are seeking some new blood conservation enthusiasts who have a specific interest in cell salvage, particularly with interest and knowledge in the following specialist areas: anaesthetics, surgery, haematology, obstetrics, trauma and paediatrics. The group meets 3 times a year, alternating telecons with face to face meetings. The next meetings planned are by telecon on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, followed by a face to face meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 in Birmingham.

If you would like to know more or are interested in joining the group, please contact Rebecca on 07764 280189 or email: [rebecca.gerrard@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:rebecca.gerrard@nhsbt.nhs.uk).

### **Rebecca Gerrard, National Lead – PBM Practitioner Team**

#### **1.3 Sickle Cell Disease and Blood Transfusion – an awareness campaign for patients, the public and healthcare professionals**

The Royal College of Pathologists organises a National Pathology Week initiative in November each year aiming to celebrate pathology and the important contribution pathologists make to healthcare. Throughout the week, there will be a variety of public awareness events both nationally and internationally and this year (2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015) the theme is “Unlocking the key to your health”.

On behalf of NHS Blood and Transplant, and in conjunction with the National Blood Transfusion Committee Patient Involvement Working Group and the Sickle Cell Society, we are focussing on sickle cell disease (SCD) and blood transfusion as part of National Pathology Week in 2015.

We would like to invite Hospital Transfusion Teams together with other key health care professionals to organise awareness events within their own hospitals and this is an initial invitation to get involved!

The key messages that we aim to highlight during this campaign are around the following themes:

- What can we do to improve understanding amongst clinicians around the needs of sickle cell patients needing transfusion?
- How can we better inform patients with SCD around their special requirements for blood transfusion?
- How can the UK blood services improve awareness amongst donors from black and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, to increase supply of potentially rare units needed for patients with SCD?

We are developing various educational material including posters and leaflets to support awareness activities and are asking you to consider organising events within your own hospitals during National Pathology Week (2<sup>nd</sup> – Nov 8<sup>th</sup> 2015). Some possible initial suggestions include:

- i. Displays in hospital foyers for healthcare professionals and patients
- ii. Displays in outpatient foyers for patients
- iii. Visits to the haematology/transfusion laboratory for medical and nursing staff
- iv. Hospital intranet awareness screen shots and signposting to resources

Friday, 28 August 2015

Further information on these resources and how to obtain these for your hospital will be made available nearer the time and at <http://hospital.blood.co.uk/>. Please also liaise with your NHSBT regional Patient Blood Management Practitioner who will be able to provide further information and consider registering your planned event(s) with the Royal College of Pathologists at <http://www.ilovepathology.org/>.

**Dr Shubha Allard, Consultant Haematologist Barts Health NHS Trust and NHS Blood and Transplant**

#### **For Information**

##### **2.1 Group AB Cryoprecipitate**

Due to recent high demand for Group AB FFP we cannot currently supply Group AB cryoprecipitate. Both components use the same donor source and we have had to prioritise the manufacture of FFP. Orders received for Group AB cryoprecipitate will therefore currently be fulfilled with Group A cryoprecipitate. The recent updates to the BCSH guidelines specified that Group A should be the universal group for FFP and a number of hospitals have changed their ordering practise to reflect this change. It is anticipated that the next version of the FFP guidelines will provide clarity for cryoprecipitate.

**Teresa Allen, Assistant Director – Customer Services**

##### **2.2 2014 Annual SHOT Report (published 2015) and associated resources**

The 2014 Annual SHOT (Serious Hazards of Transfusion) Report was published on 27 June 2015 and hard copy reports, plus the 8-page Summary, have been mailed to all UK hospitals. Most hospitals will have received two copies addressed generically to 'Transfusion Laboratory Manager' and Transfusion Practitioner'.

Chapters 23 to 28 are not in the printed report and are only available in the website version <http://www.shotuk.org/shot-reports/report-summary-supplement-2014/>  
Other supplementary materials are also available at that link.

We may move towards electronic reports only in future and welcome your response to this; in particular whether you would be disadvantaged in any way if there is no hard copy. Please email any comments to the SHOT office on [shot@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:shot@nhsbt.nhs.uk).

Further related information is in the resources section <http://www.shotuk.org/resources/current-resources/>. These include:

- 'Cases from Annual SHOT Report 2014' and 'Figures from Annual SHOT Report 2014'.
- 'SHOT Messages 2014', which includes the recommendations, learning points and key SHOT messages. This document is enabled for electronic download with a writeable column that can be used to perform a gap analysis if you wish.
- There are also new resources known as 'SHOT Bites', which are two-sided A4 sheets on topics of interest. The first three are:
  - SHOT Bites No1 – Incident Investigation
  - SHOT Bites No2 – Anti-D Lessons and Highlights 2015
  - SHOT Bites No3 – Quick Reference Guide to Reporting

**Alison Watt, SHOT Operations Manager**

Friday, 28 August 2015

### **2.3 Guidance: Minimise Transmission Risk of CJD and vCJD in Healthcare Settings**

The Department of Health have published new guidance on minimising the risk of CJD and vCJD on their website. This guidance, produced by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens' Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (ACDP TSE) Risk Management Subgroup, aims to help minimise the risk of transmission of CJD and vCJD in healthcare and other work settings. Details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-from-the-acdp-tse-risk-management-subgroup-formerly-tse-working-group>.

**Rebecca Gerrard, National Lead – PBM Practitioner Team**

### **For Training**

#### **3.1 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/>



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