

To: Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Transfusion Practitioners, Consultant Haematologists

31st July 2015

Dear Colleague,

Information Regarding Proposed Service Developments

Supply Chain Modernisation

We are writing to inform you that on 30th July the NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) Board agreed to progress the proposal to modernise manufacturing, which includes the future transfer of manufacturing activity from Sheffield and Newcastle to Manchester. This change will result in the closure of the Newcastle and Sheffield manufacturing departments, and the introduction of 24/7 working in the Manchester manufacturing department.

The Newcastle and Sheffield centres will remain as stock holding units (SHUs) for the hospitals they currently serve. This project will not impact on other services currently provided at these centres, such as Hospital Services and Red Cell Immunohaematology (RCI). We do not expect manufacturing activities to transfer until 2017 at the earliest.

The Board have made this decision to ensure we are best placed to respond to the challenges we face now and in the future and to make the best use of every donation in the most cost effective manner. We would like to assure you that whilst maintaining our commitment to keeping blood component costs as low as possible and sharing cost efficiency savings across the NHS, the security, safety and continuity of blood supply remain our top priority in making any changes.

Leeds/Sheffield Estates Review

As a separate initiative, we will also be starting a review of our NHSBT estates in the Leeds/Sheffield area to provide options for the future. We will consult with hospitals currently supplied by the Leeds and Sheffield SHUs as part of this review. We aim to develop a proposal for the configuration of our remaining estate in Leeds and Sheffield by the end of 2015, with a view to taking this to our Board by the end of the 2015/16 financial year. We will retain the current SHUs pending the outcome of the proposal with an intention of maintaining stock holding in the Leeds/Sheffield area in the long term.

We will keep all hospitals informed of the progress of both of these projects and welcome any questions or comments via your local Customer Service Manager.

Yours faithfully,



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