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For Action

1.1 Reporting of reactions during Therapeutic Apheresis (Plasma Exchange) Procedures

- SHOT (The Serious Hazards of Transfusion confidential reporting scheme) has received reports of febrile and allergic reactions occurring during some therapeutic apheresis (plasma exchange) procedures.
- It is important that reactions to all types of plasma, both Blood Service and commercially produced, are captured and reported to SHOT (and MHRA) so that we may collect and trend data.
- Blood Service providers and hospital clinicians performing plasma exchange should provide details of suspected transfusion reactions meeting the BCSH and SHOT criteria through the local reporting system (i.e. the Hospital Transfusion Team).
- This update is intended to make Transfusion Practitioners and laboratories aware that they may be receiving these reports and that they need to be reporting them externally.
- If plasma exchange is performed in your hospital, please make the relevant clinical team aware of this action
- Please do not hesitate to contact the SHOT Office 0161-423-4208 shot@nhsbt.nhs.uk if you have any queries around this issue.

Tony Davies, Patient Blood Management Practitioner NHSBT / SHOT

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1. 2 NHSBT Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics (H&I) – The importance of providing platelet increments information

A platelet count is required after **every** HLA selected platelet transfusion (platelet count can be done ten minutes after completion of transfusion).

This is a way to check if the platelet transfusion has been effective and ensures that the most effective platelets are selected to provide the best clinical care for your patient.

It is important to ensure that the NHSBT 'selected platelets follow up form' is returned to your local H&I laboratory after each HLA selected platelet transfusion.

A poster is available on the following link to display in your hospital to help with best practice:
http://hospital.blood.co.uk/library/pdf/HLA_platelets_poster.pdf

NHSBT H&I are developing a report on increment data to present at user group meetings

Dr Andrea Harmer – National Head of H&I Services

For Information:

2.1 Electronic Dispatch Note - A hospital perspective

The Electronic Dispatch Note (EDN) allows hospital Blood Banks to import their blood component delivery from NHSBT quickly and efficiently into the Blood Bank LIMS stock file. Each blood component received can be entered into the stock file by just scanning the donation number and product code label – other details such as blood group, expiry date, flags and red cell phenotypes are entered automatically. The major benefits of EDN are ease of use, less dependence on staff having to scan multiple barcodes, ability of support staff to perform stock entry, improved search facility for selected units of red cells and BMS acceptability.

Please see a presentation on the Rotherham and Barnsley experience of EDN:
http://hospital.blood.co.uk/products/electronic_dispatch_note/

Heather Aplin, Customer Service Manager, Projects

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2.2 Blood Stocks Management Scheme Annual Meetings

The Blood Stocks Management Scheme (BSMS) Annual Roadshows will be taking place in May and June. This year's theme "Cloudy with a Chance of Platelets (& Plasma!)" looks at blood service changes being considered regarding apheresis and pooled platelets, and some challenges within the frozen products portfolio. The cost is £30 which covers refreshments and lunch, so come and have your say!

21st May London Gatwick Sandman Signature Hotel

6th June Liverpool NHSBT

25th June Filton NHSBT

Contact BSMS@nhsbt.nhs.uk to receive the application form and programme, or visit the www.bloodstocks.co.uk website to see details.

Elaine MacRate, Blood Stocks Management Scheme Manager

2.3 International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) Results on Sp-ICE

Reports from the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) red cell reference department will be available to view on Sp-ICE from Thursday 8th May 2014. **Please note IBGRL reports will be available to administrators and users who already have access to Red Cell Immunohaematology (RCI) reports.** The reports will be categorised as RCI (Reference), and will accompany the final RCI reports in cases where a referral for further investigation by IBGRL red cell reference has been deemed necessary by the local RCI laboratory.

The following IBGRL reports will be available:

- Investigations of serological problems of a complex nature, including:
 - Antibodies to high frequency antigens.
 - Antibodies to low frequency antigens.
 - Complex mixtures of antibodies.

- The investigation of Rh anomalies by DNA sequencing of *RHD* and *RHCE* genes.

If you do not currently have appropriate access to Sp-ICE and wish to access these reports, please contact your Transfusion Laboratory Manager or e-mail ICE@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Heather Aplin, Customer Service Manager, Projects

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2.4 Patients give Specialist Therapeutic Services Top Marks

Between November and December 2013, the Specialist Therapeutic Services (STS) function conducted its third survey to measure the patient experience with the service it provides. This survey was conducted across each of the six units located in Bristol, Oxford, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and Sheffield.

NHSBT has a long history of providing life-saving and life-enhancing therapeutic apheresis services within the NHS and provides over 1000 patients each year with access to a portfolio of therapies across a range of clinical specialties using technology that exchanges, removes, or collects certain components within the blood. The main therapeutic apheresis procedures offered by STS are:

- Extracorporeal Photopheresis (ECP)
- Plasma/Red Cell Exchange
- Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Collection

In 2012, STS conducted its first baseline survey to measure patient experience and achieved a 'top box' score of 95% i.e. 95% of patients surveyed rated their experience as 9 or 10 out of 10. A second survey conducted in Spring 2013 returned a 'top box' score of 100%.

We are delighted that the 'top box' score for the autumn/winter 2013 survey was a very positive 97%.

The next patient experience survey will be conducted in November 2014.

The full report is available to view on our dedicated hospital facing web pages:

http://hospital.blood.co.uk/specialist_therapeutic_services/patient_user_feedback/index.asp

Hannah Scrimshaw, Business Administration Manager - STS

2.5 New JPAC Website

We are pleased to announce that the new UK Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Service website: (www.transfusionguidelines.org) is now live. Several areas have been updated and the site now includes the new (5th) edition of the Handbook of Transfusion Medicine. Other areas such as the Transfusion Practice Toolkit (formerly the Better Blood Transfusion Toolkit), will take longer to populate.

The NBTC (National Blood Transfusion Committee) and ten RTC (Regional Transfusion Committee) areas of the site have been redesigned. The structure of the NBTC section has been simplified and the RTC sections now feature an interactive map to aid navigation between the regions and improved functionality to enable users to search for audits by year, region and subject. Please bear with us while we work through a backlog of several months of updates to these sections. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Sheena Cameron, Website Development Manager

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2.6 Access to historic results on Sp-ICE

Results for RCI samples are currently available through Sp-ICE from November 2011. Over 72% of you have requested access to older results to provide a more complete patient record. In response NHSBT are going to migrate data in May which will result in patient reports for red cell reference and antenatal samples with antibodies being available from 31st October 2006 to 8th November 2011. We will migrate just the latest report from the most recent sample for each patient. We will exclude routine antenatal and antibody card reports to reduce the volume of unnecessary information.

We will automatically file these reports for you once they have loaded but please be aware they may temporarily appear in the "View Latest Reports" view until the process has completed.

This exercise will more than double the sample records available on Sp-ICE.

Heather Aplin, Customer Service Manager, Projects

2.7 NHSBT Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics (H&I) User Guide Update

The revised H&I Services user guide (INF136/3) is available to download from the NHSBT Hospital & Science website: http://hospital.blood.co.uk/library/user_guides/index.asp

Dr Andrea Harmer – National Head of H&I Services

2.8 NHSBT Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics (H&I) - Sample Reception Operational Improvement Event update

NHSBT H&I Function recently held an operational improvement event reviewing the sample reception process.

Key findings that we would like your help with are:

- Promote use of NHS number
- Review of the minimum requirements for the labelling of samples and the planned implementation of the introduction of 'zero tolerance' on inappropriate labelled samples later this year
- Review and improve the NHSBT H&I test request forms to aid appropriate completion
- Improve the information we receive from the request form

We would like to promote the use of the NHS number. The NHS number is the only national unique patient identifier in operation in the NHS. Using the NHS number makes it possible to share patient information safely, efficiently and accurately across NHS organisations.

NHS number usage will allow more accurate patient records by reducing the number of duplicate records, reduce the time spent clarifying a patient's / donor's identity and therefore improving safety and patient care ensuring the right result goes to the right patient in an appropriate timeframe.

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We are also reviewing the minimum requirements for the labelling of samples policy in order to set out a clear sample acceptance procedure both for NHSBT staff and our customers. This will be announced in a future communication.

A review of the NHSBT H&I test request forms has begun and we will be in touch in the future for your input. The forms collect the relevant clinical details to enable us to perform the appropriate tests on the correct patient/ donor to reflect the services currently provided by the laboratories and to comply with accreditation regulations.

However, in the meantime we have produced guidance notes to aid completion on the current forms. Please circulate this to everyone who completes our test request forms. Guidance information for completion of the H&I Diagnostic Laboratory Test Request forms (INF1182) is available at: http://hospital.blood.co.uk/library/request_forms/hi/

Please note:

- A separate request form must accompany every sample including family members

Dr Andrea Harmer – National Head of H&I Services

2.9 NHSBT Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics (H&I): Ordering HLA/HPA selected products – NHS number now printed on product label

Please give the labs as much notice as possible, a minimum of 24 hours, when placing an order for HLA/HPA selected components. This allows us to select the best match for your patient and to transport the product in a timely manner. It is:

- important to list the delivery details
- very helpful if you list time and date of transfusion
- important to contact the lab to discuss urgent requirements

Please provide NHS number on FRM558 & FRM559.

Following customer requests we have been developing the IT systems to allow the NHS number to be printed on the product label. This went live in February 2014. **Please note** that if NHSBT has the patient's NHS number on record, the NHS number will be printed on the product label preferentially over the hospital number.

HLA selected platelets for the weekend should be planned in advance during normal working hours. The out of hours service is for EMERGENCY use for named patients who have previously received HLA selected platelets and NOT for routine orders or new patients.

For more details:

HLA - http://hospital.blood.co.uk/library/request_forms/hla/order_hla/

HPA - http://hospital.blood.co.uk/library/request_forms/hla/order_hpa/

Dr Andrea Harmer – National Head of H&I Services

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2.10 Errata notice in the March 2014 Update - Article 1.1 Red cells for Interuterine Transfusion

Please note that there was a typing error included in Article 1.1 in March's Update. The text throughout the article should read "intrauterine" and not "interuterine".

The Text in March's Update is being changed to reflect this. Please accept our apologies for any confusion caused.

Richard Whitmore, Customer Service Manager

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 following area of our website:

<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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