

**The Update
March 2016**

For Action

- 1.1 Red book Survey**
- 1.2 Questions about blood transfusion and blood donation? We want to hear from you**
- 1.3 Ordering HLA/HPA Products on OBOS**
- 1.4 You can stop RCI Hard Copy Reports; NHSBT will supply blank Antibody Cards**

For Information

- 2.1 New resources to support the introduction of Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) negative blood components**
- 2.2 NHS Blood and Transplant appoints new Medical and Research Director**
- 2.3 NHSBT Data Centre Move-Update**
- 2.4 NHSBT Recalls: Information Flowcharts new version release**

For Training

- 3.1 MSc in Transfusion and Transplantation Sciences**
- 3.2 RCPATH Transfusion Medicine Symposium 2016**
- 3.3 Spotlight on the Practical Introduction to Transfusion Science**

For Action

1.1 Red book Survey

JPAC are in the process of bringing out a new edition of the Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the UK; The Red Book.

Questions have been raised as to whether the new edition should be produced in hard copy and electronic format, as it is now, or only in electronic format on JPAC's Transfusion Guidelines website. We are conducting a short survey which only asks this question and won't take long to complete.

Please take the survey

<http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/>

Please forward this information on to any colleagues who also use the Red Book.

Caroline J Smith, Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC) Manager

1.2 Questions about blood transfusion and blood donation? We want to hear from you

Who can take part?

Patients, carers, and healthcare professionals

If you have ever had a blood transfusion, or need one; have been, or are, a blood donor; are a family member, or carer, of someone who has had, or needs, a blood transfusion; have an interest in strategies to avoid blood transfusions, including from the Jehovah's Witness community; or work as a health or social care professional involved with blood transfusion or donation... we want to hear from you.

Why should I take the survey?

The Blood Transfusion and Blood Donation survey will - for the first time - identify your most pressing unanswered questions about the therapeutic use of red blood cells, platelets and plasma in patients of any age and in any hospital department, across the whole clinical pathway from blood donation through to recovery from transfusion, as well as treatment strategies that provide alternatives to using blood. This will ensure that future research can be prioritised according to the needs of patients, carers and health professionals.

This exciting initiative will be overseen by The James Lind Alliance, a non-profit making organisation funded by the National Institute for Health Research, ensuring the exercise produces an unbiased result, with equal weighting given to the views of the different participating groups. So whether your interest is personal or professional ...your opinions will count.

How do I take part?

The survey is available at <http://tinyurl.com/h6jf52l> or contact the James Lind Alliance Project Manager at the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre to request a paper version (voicemail 01865 223298, e-mail sandra.regan@ouh.nhs.uk).

The survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete, so please take this opportunity to influence future research in this important area.

Professor Mike Murphy

1.3 Ordering HLA/HPA Products on OBOS

In the January edition of 'The Update' we highlighted the ability to order Specialist Stock Orders (SSO) through OBOS. This new function is for ordering secondary/follow up HLA matched products. HPA products can be ordered using OBOS and this replaces the need to order HPA products using Form 609 (Request for HPA blood products form)

The OBOS Training system has this new function and the Live system will be activated for all hospitals from 21st March 2016.

We will still accept fax orders as we appreciate hospitals will require time to update process documents and train staff to the new system. We will monitor the use of fax and contact hospitals to support the move to OBOS ordering.

The first request for HLA selected platelets still requires hospitals to use Form 558 as this includes additional clinical information required by MHRA. Hospital staff must continue to phone their local H&I laboratory to discuss patient information and testing and component requirements. An order form (FRM 558) will be faxed to the hospital by the H&I laboratory.

We would like to thank Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals; Addenbrooke's Hospital; St. Bartholomew's Hospital; King's College Hospital and The Royal Marsden Hospital that participated in the pilot allowing us to make changes and improvements before the full roll out. This also generated some [Frequently Asked Questions](#) which can be found on the Hospitals & Science web site.

The ability to search HLA/HPA orders using patient details was identified by the pilot. This functionality is under development and testing with the aim to launch in July 2016 OBOS version 7.2.0.

If you have any queries, comments, feedback or suggestions for improvement to the system then please let the OBOS team know via OBOS@nhsbt.nhs.uk or through your local Customer Service Manager.

Craig Wilkes - Regional Customer Service Manager South West & Dr Helen North - Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics

1.4 You can stop RCI Hard Copy Reports; NHSBT will supply blank Antibody Cards

NHSBT have the functionality to selectively turn off Red Cell Immunohaematology (RCI) hard copy reports (including antibody cards) for hospitals who indicate they are ready.

If you email reportcessation@nhsbt.nhs.uk to request RCI hard copy report cessation for your organisation, RCI will email you FRM4792 to complete together with a Management Process Description (MPD912) explaining the process.

We will turn off hard copy reports for hospitals who:

- Confirm there is agreement between reports on Sp-ICE and hard copy reports received.
- Have sufficient staff trained as Sp-ICE administrators/users.
- Ensure all staff who may currently receive hard copy reports will have access to results
- Have contingency measures in place in case of interruption to the Sp-ICE service*.
- Have a process in place to ensure that all relevant clinical and scientific staff are aware if an original report has been amended.
- Have all documentation in place to support the Sp-ICE system.

On receipt of a completed and signed checklist (FRM4792), NHSBT will make the necessary arrangements to stop printing and sending hard copy reports. The hospital TLM will be informed of the date from when hard copy reports will no longer be received and a copy of the completed checklist will be returned to them for their records.

We can supply blank cards for you to print the antibody cards directly from Sp-ICE, please contact your local Customer service Manager with your requirements.

** Please note in the event that access to Sp-ICE is interrupted, NHSBT IT will take urgent action to restore access. Results for urgent investigations will be available by telephone. In the unlikely event of a long interruption hard copy reports will be printed and dispatched by post or transport.*

Heather Aplin. Lead Customer Service Manager, Projects

For Information

2.1 New resources to support the introduction of Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) negative blood components

Four resources have been developed to support the introduction of HEV negative blood components. These include a flow chart for clinicians and one for laboratory staff; a PowerPoint presentation for clinical and transfusion laboratory staff; and guidance for requesting HEV negative blood components on OBOS.

The flowcharts have been provided as PowerPoint templates so they can be amended to reflect your Trust / Hospital guidelines as required - if you do this please can you overwrite the text in the footer section and acknowledge NHS Blood and Transplant as the originator of this document.

These resources are available on the NHSBT Hospitals and Science website, along with other material supporting the introduction of HEV negative components, at:

<http://hospital.blood.co.uk/products/hepatitis-e-screening/>

Denise Watson, PBM Practitioner and Education

2.2 NHS Blood and Transplant appoints new Medical and Research Director

Dr Gail Mifflin has been appointed as Medical and Research Director at NHS Blood and Transplant. She will take up the post on 1st June.

Dr Mifflin joined NHSBT in 2010, becoming Associate Medical Director in 2012. In her new role she will lead the Clinical Directorate and will be responsible for the Governance framework and clinical governance systems across NHSBT. She will also oversee research and development, acting as the interface with research bodies, including universities and Public Health England. In doing this she will ensure evidence is provided to shape national and international health care policy in respect of transfusion and transplantation medicine and science.

Dr Mifflin replaces Dr Lorna Williamson who retires on 31st May.

For further details please see:

http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/news-and-media/news-articles/news_2016_03_07.asp

Ian Trenholm, Chief Executive

2.3 NHSBT Data Centre Move-Update

We have now completed the move of our core IT systems. The work was completed with out any disruption to service delivery. Any contingency plans you put in place to cover the period can be stood down. Thank you for your understanding during this project.

Craig Wilkes, Regional Customer Service Manager South West

2.4 NHSBT Recalls: Information Flowcharts new version release

The recall process is undergoing a phased improvement plan as described in the [October 2015 Update](#). We have reviewed and streamlined the four information flowcharts which detail the expectations, interactions and processes between hospitals and NHSBT during a recall.

The improvements will be:

- 1) Four information flowchart documents (INF1209, INF1210, INF1211 and INF1212) will be amalgamated into a single document - 'INF1210 NHSBT Component Recall Process'
- 2) The new flowcharts will clearly differentiate the process for:
 - Hospital initiated recalls in three separate flowcharts
 - Pack defects
 - Visual abnormalities
 - Transfusion reactions (including transfusion transmitted infections); and
 - All NHSBT initiated recalls in a single flowchart (including bacterial screening, donor information, transfusion reaction associated units etc.)

The new document will be in affect and available on the Hospitals & Science website from 7th June 2016 on the [Reporting Adverse Events page](#)

If you have any queries or suggestions for improvement please contact your Customer Service Manager.

Michelle Ray, Customer Service Manager

For Training

3.1 MSc in Transfusion and Transplantation Sciences

Looking for training or working towards Clinical Scientist Registration?
This course could be for you.

Applications are invited from biomedical science or science graduates to study for the MSc in Transfusion and Transplantation Sciences. The course is run jointly by The School of Cellular & Molecular Medicine, University of Bristol and the Bristol Institute of Transfusion Sciences. The course starts every September either full-time for 1 year or part-time over 2 or 3 years by 2 week block release. You attend 2 blocks in the autumn term and 2 in the spring term in the first and second year. That's only 8 weeks per year!

The course aims to develop your interest, knowledge and understanding of the theory, practical techniques and research relating to the science of transplantation and transfusion medicine.

For example,

- *How is blood processed?*
- *When do we give platelet transfusions?*
- *How is tissue engineering used?*
- *What causes haemolytic anaemia?*
- *How do we reduce the transfusion related risk of HIV and vCJD?*

Teaching combines informal lectures, tutorials, practical laboratory experience and a research project with the bias on transfusion.

The lecture units include: Haemopoiesis, Immunology, Platelets and coagulation, Blood groups, Haematological diseases, Blood donation and components, Clinical transfusion, Transfusion

transmitted infections, Stem cell transplantation, Solid organ transplantation, Tissue engineering and Laboratory management.

The full course costs £9800 and is split over 3 years

Local very reasonable accommodation may be available at Southmead Hospital

For further details visit: - <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/fmvs/gradschool/programmes/transfusion/>

or contact me on 0117 921 7344, email P.A.Denning-Kendall@bristol.ac.uk

Tricia Denning-Kendall, Teaching Associate and MSc Course Director

3.2 RCPATH Transfusion Medicine Symposium 2016

The Royal College of Pathologists has organised its highly popular two yearly Transfusion Medicine Symposium to be held on 24th/25th November 2016 at the Royal Society of Medicine in London. The meeting will bring together experts from various clinical disciplines and leaders in transfusion science to provide a broad overview of current key developments informing evidence based practice.

The meeting will be of wide interest to all those involved in transfusion medicine. Discounts are available for trainees, nursing and BMS staff.

To book online go to: <https://www.rcpath.org/event/advances-in-transfusion-medicine.html>

Tel 020 7451 6715; Email meetings@rcpath.org

Dr Shubha Allard, Consultant Haematologist

3.3 Spotlight on the Practical Introduction to Transfusion Science

The course is ideal for people who are new to Transfusion Science and supports staff who are preparing to take part in extended / out of hours working. The course also appeals to those with experience, as a refresher or update for CPD. A range of teaching methods are used to deliver theory and laboratory practical sessions. The practical sessions seem to be a favourite with many delegates as is the chance to network with peers from other Trusts.

“Taught at the appropriate level for me, a newly qualified BMS who is just about to begin my transfusion training”

“Great course, refreshed my transfusion knowledge and reminded me of things I had forgotten from my BMS degree“

Course dates include:

18-22/04/2016 Newcastle

25-29/04/2016 Filton (Bristol)

20-24/06/2016 Filton

04-08/07/2016 Newcastle

10-14/10/2016 Tooting

17-21/10/2016 Manchester

Other courses with availability

Specialist Transfusion Science Practice

20-24/06/2016 Manchester
10-14/10/2016 Filton

Advanced Transfusion Science Masterclass (free)
06/10/2016 Manchester

Non-medical authorisation of Blood Components (nurses)
11-14/04/2016 Tooting
03-06/10/2016 Colindale
01-04/11/2016 Manchester

Ruth Evans, OD Manager- Scientific Training



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