NHS
Blood and Transplant

Therapeutic Apheresis Services Service Portfolio

Caring Expert Quality

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Therapeutic Apheresis Services

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) Therapeutic Apheresis Services (TAS) provide adults and children with access to a portfolio of apheresis services across a range of clinical specialties using technology that exchanges, removes or collects certain components within the blood.

TAS operates an out-patient model for non-acute patient procedures and a peripatetic outreach model for paediatrics and acutely unwell patients.

Our aim is to be the preferred provider of high quality, cost effective and flexible therapeutic apheresis services in the NHS.

We offer:

- Robust, flexible and responsive regional services
- An expert and experienced clinical team and technical service
- First class quality management and regulatory compliance
- Comprehensive range of therapies
- Access to 24/7 emergency apheresis services

Our Facilities

Each of our units is staffed by an experienced medical and nursing team.

Services are routinely provided Monday to Friday 09.00 to 17:00 hrs with provision of a 24/7 emergency out of hours on call service.

The map below shows our current fixed units, in addition we have plans to expand our services into new regions.

Further details about all TAS units are available on our website:
http://hospital.blood.co.uk/patient-services/therapeutic-apheresis-services/

Procedure Portfolio

TAS provides a wide range of patient therapies, the main procedures we provide are:

Extracorporeal Photopheresis

Integrated two-stage procedure involving the collection and removal of white cells, which are treated with a photo activated drug and exposed to ultraviolet light then returned to the patient. Used for treatment of Cutaneous T cell Lymphoma and Graft versus Host Disease (a complication of bone marrow transplants).

Therapeutic Plasma Exchange

Removal of disease mediators or to substitute missing or defective constituents in the plasma for the treatment of a wide range of patients across a number of clinical specialities. The process removes the patient's plasma and replaces it with either fresh frozen plasma components or refined plasma products.

Red Cell Exchange

Performed in a procedure similar to plasma exchange in which red cells are removed and replaced. Red cell exchange is used for the treatment of red cell disorders or diseases such as sickle cell disease or some cases of malaria.

Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Collection

Stem cells are collected from donors or from patients for use in their own treatment. They are used in the treatment of blood disorders especially cancers and solid tumours. The procedure separates the blood, allowing removal of only the white blood cell layer (containing stem cells) and returns the remainder of the blood back to the patient or donor.

Lipid Apheresis

Adsorption technology is used to remove Lipid Apheresis cholesterol molecules. This is used in patients with inherited forms of high cholesterol who do not respond to medication and dietary changes.

Lymphocyte Collection

This collection process is very similar to the collection of stem cells. Lymphocytes are collected from donors who have previously donated stem cells to further support the patient in their treatment by helping to introduce a beneficial graft vs. disease effect.

White Cell Depletion

Performed on patients newly diagnosed with leukaemia who have excessively high levels of white cells in their blood in a procedure similar to stem cell collection.

Platelet Depletion

A rare procedure for the removal of large volumes of platelets in patients with very high platelet counts caused by an underlying disease. It is similar to the platelet collection procedure undertaken on volunteer donors.

TAS is proactive in collaborating with manufacturers to evaluate new technologies in order to provide improved patient treatments and outcomes.

We actively promote and support research initiatives and clinical trials.

Indications for Therapeutic Apheresis

Therapeutic apheresis is indicated for adults and children with diseases across a range of clinical specialities.

The decision to initiate therapeutic apheresis depends on multiple factors such as diagnosis and potential efficacy versus risk benefit ratio.

The American Society for Apheresis (ASFA) publishes recommendations on the indications for therapeutic apheresis and uses categories from 1 to 4 depending on the evidence base and likely benefit. The latest edition is in the Journal of Clinical Apheresis (2013) Jul;28(3):145-284. These guidelines provide clinicians and commissioners with the evidence base for treatment.

How to Access Services and Make a Referral

Referrals for our services are made to the Apheresis Unit Consultant using our referral form.

Trusts *with* a TAS Service Level Agreement

If your Trust has a service level agreement you can refer a patient directly to your local TAS unit using an apheresis procedure referral form.

Trusts *without* a TAS Service Level Agreement

If your Trust does not have a service level agreement, please contact your local TAS Consultant or Lead Nurse to discuss service provision. If the unit has the capacity to accept your patient referral you will be requested to complete a one off treatment request form.

Out of Hours Emergency Requests

Emergency out of hours requests should be directed to the Consultant on call contacted via NHSBT Hospital Services Department.

All referral/request forms and contact details are available on our website: http://hospital.blood.co.uk/patient-services/therapeutic-apheresis-services/

Delivering Quality Services is at the Heart of What We Do

Our services are highly regulated and underpinned by a robust Quality System focused on continuous quality improvement. In order to ensure the highest treatment standards, the design, specifications, monitoring and continuous audit of our working practices have been implemented in line with published standards and guidelines.

We are regulated, accredited and inspected by a number of bodies and operates under the requirements of various legislation and standards including the European Union Directives on Tissue and Cells, The Human Tissue Act, JACIE and the Care Quality Commission.

Patient Experience and User Satisfaction –

We pride ourselves on continuous improvement and regularly seek feedback from our patients and referring clinicians. In a 2015 survey 100% of patients scored their overall satisfaction of our service as 9 or 10 out of 10. The results of these surveys are available to view on our website.

Adverse Events/Incidents, Complaints and Compliments

We work in partnership with our service users to fully investigate any adverse events/incidents or complaints and encourage communication of any issues to us. For links to complaint forms and to more information on reporting adverse events, please view our website or contact your local unit.

"I can't speak highly enough of the staff, service and professionalism shown."

Referring clinician

"Excellent staff, everything explained and done with a smile. So professional and so friendly"

Patient

Technology We Utilise

TAS uses a number of different technologies which utilises different separation techniques, including centrifugation, adsorption and filtration.

The procedures vary in length depending on condition being treated and clinical status of the patient. Procedure times can range from around 90 minutes up to 4 or 5 hours.

Terumo Optia

Collection and exchange procedures e.g. Stem cell collection and Plasma exchange

Therakos Cellex

Extracorporeal Photopheresis

Fresenius DALI

Lipid Apheresis

Therapeutic Apheresis Services Structure

NHSBT is an NHS Arms Length Body and TAS forms part of NHSBT's Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services (DTS) directorate. TAS is strategically managed and overseen by a multidisciplinary Senior Management Team lead by the Chief Nurse.

Our services are delivered by highly experienced medical and nursing teams.

Each of our units are clinically lead by a dedicated apheresis consultant. The consultant is supported by a team of experienced apheresis nurses who are highly skilled in the delivery of apheresis procedures. The local team is managed by a Lead Nurse.

The contact details of our Consultants and Lead Nurses are available on our website
http://hospital.blood.co.uk/patient-services/therapeutic-apheresis-services/

Treatment Costs

Pricing of NHSBT services is governed by the National Commissioning Group (NCG); a group chaired by the Department of Health. Prices are set to recover costs and are agreed annually. Prices for Therapeutic Apheresis Services are determined on a cost per procedure basis (price lists are available via your local TAS Consultant/Lead Nurse).

Billing

NHSBT will invoice the respective NHS Trust on a monthly basis for each procedure undertaken (with the exception of Extracorporeal Photopheresis services). The cost of blood components/products used in any apheresis procedure is not included in the standard tariffs and will be charged separately.

Funding for Extracorporeal Photopheresis Services

NHSBT has a contract with NHS England for Extracorporeal Photopheresis (ECP) services for patients who fall within guidance set out by the UK Consensus statement for the treatment of patients with Chronic Graft versus Host Disease and Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma.

Other clinical conditions which fall outside the UK Consensus statement, but where ECP may have benefit e.g. acute Graft versus Host Disease are subject to approval by an Individual Funding Request.

TAS Further Information and Contact Details

Further information about our services, including full contact details of TAS unit staff can be obtained via the TAS hospital and patient facing web pages:

Hospital facing web pages:
http://hospital.blood.co.uk/patient-services/therapeutic-apheresis-services/

Patient facing web pages:
http://www.blood.co.uk/index.aspx

Other Useful websites

American Society for Apheresis (ASFA)
www.apheresis.org/

British Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation: BSBMT
http://bsbmt.org/

The British Committee for Standards in Haematology: BCSH
www.bcshguidelines.com/

European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation
http://www.ebmt.org/

UK Photopheresis Society
http://ukps.org/

Heart UK
http://heartuk.org.uk/

Sickle Cell Society
http://www.sicklecellsociety.org/

NHS Blood and Transplant

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) saves and improves lives by providing a safe, reliable and efficient supply of blood and associated services to the NHS in England and North Wales. We are the organ donor organisation for the UK and are responsible for matching and allocating donated organs.

We rely on thousands of members of the public who voluntarily donate their blood, organs, tissues and stem cells. Their generosity means each year we're able to supply around 1.9 million units of blood to hospitals in England and North Wales and around 4,200 organ and 5,800 tissue donations, which save or improve thousands of lives.

For more information

Visit nhsbt.nhs.uk
Email enquiries@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Call 0300 123 23 23

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