



Blood and Transplant

The Update for January 2020

Use of fax machines in NHSBT

We are aware that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has requested that the NHS phase out fax machines by 31 March 2020. In light of this, we have been working hard to maintain communication methods with service users who use an alternative method to fax for communication, for example, email, VOIP systems. At this point in time, we maintain a non-IT based contingency system, fax, for the unavailability of IT (including OBOS, PULSE and email).

We will update you should there be any plan to change this in the future.

Sarah Milligan - Business Continuity Manager

National Transfusion Laboratory Managers Working Group survey on fax machines

The National Transfusion Laboratory Managers Working Group has discussed the directive for hospitals to remove fax machines by March 2020. The group are keen to understand what progress is being made in transfusion labs, what mitigations are in place and whether they can offer any guidance or support. We will be issuing a short survey in early February and ask that you complete and return it to help support colleagues across the country.

Julie Staves - Chair, National Laboratory Managers Working Group
Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust

Our preparations for UK plasma self-sufficiency

Our aim is to bring the benefits of transition to hospitals as quickly as possible whilst maximising the use of our current inventory and minimising waste.

Component Ordering:

1. From April 2020 we are planning to enable hospitals to order “generic” FFP or cryoprecipitate through OBOS. These orders will be fulfilled with either non-UK or UK sourced plasma components
2. We expect this continuing until September 2020, when we forecast having run down our current non-UK plasma inventory

Component Pricing:

3. From April 2020 our intention is to charge one price for FFP and one price for cryoprecipitate, regardless of the origin of the plasma
4. Our proposed pricing will be presented to an extraordinary meeting of the DHSC's National Commissioning Group (NCG) for further scrutiny
5. The NCG will communicate approved prices around the end of February/early March 2020

Demand Planning to Support Component Availability:

6. We have used your feedback to modify our blood donation activity
7. Our demand forecasting assumes appropriate ordering of group A/AB components in particular
8. Please maintain appropriate ordering of high titre negative components; provision of 100% HT neg ordering is not sustainable and we are grateful for your support

Component Specification and IT:

9. We will be phasing in a new neonatal small volume FFP component manufactured from domestic plasma to replace the non-UK/MB version. We will issue a product code to allow you to update your LIMS
10. The new neonatal FFP component will not be manufactured from first-time donations
11. We have met with several main LIMS suppliers to discuss the proposed changes. They indicate that these changes can be accommodated within current LIMS functionality

We would again like to thank you for maintaining your current UK/non-UK component ordering profiles as we undertake this work. This will help us to maintain sufficiency of supply throughout the transition.

We will provide updates as we progress and thank you again for your continuing support and partnership.

Alastair Hunter - NHSBT Frozen Component Manager

Please help us to ensure we have R0 blood for people with sickle cell disease

We are asking you to help us to ensure we have a supply of R0 blood for the estimated 15,000 people with [sickle cell disease](#) in the UK.

You can support us when you are ordering units, by:

- Submitting orders 5 working days in advance where possible, as units are held at sites with the largest demand

- Accepting the substitutions we make in accordance with the [substitution matrix](#)
- Deleting outstanding orders on OBOS if the order is no longer required, so the units can be used for other people
- Ordering R₀ units for R₀ patients, so we have accurate demand data
- Discussing any ordering issues or suggestions for improvement with your Customer Services Manager

A web page, [Ordering R₀ units](#), is now published with this information, under the Components section.

Chris Philips, Head of Hospital Customer Service

Telephony upgrade taking place on 29 January and 5 February

During the upgrade there will be a potential 4 hour window between 9am and 5pm, on both days, when individual telephone lines may be unavailable for short periods. If circumstances allow please try the number again after 5 minutes before calling the contingency number.

If you experience difficulty ringing Hospital Services, RCI or H&I on the normal numbers then please contact your local Hospital Services using the contingency numbers, available below and on [this webpage](#).

Centre	Contingency telephone	Contingency fax
Basildon	01268 725011	01268 726516
Birmingham	0121 471 5119	0121 471 5123
Cambridge	01223 243010	01223 414713
Colindale	0208 200 9951	0208 205 8041
Filton (Bristol)	0117 9694904	0117 9694978
Lancaster	01524 389808	01524 845083
Leeds	0113 264 7361	0113 264 8971
Liverpool	0151 427 4283	0151 427 4284
Manchester	0161 273 3696	0161 273 5023
Newcastle	0191 222 0872	Telephone 0191 222 0872
Oxford	01865 308529	01865 741952

Plymouth	0117 9125724	01752 637810
Sheffield	0114 243 7268	0114 261 9816
Southampton	023 8070 4698	02380 774950
Tooting	0208 767 4453	0208 682 2072

Chris Philips, Commercial and Customer Services

Patient information leaflet availability: Anti-D prophylaxis guidance

These leaflets are based on current BSH guidance, but do not reflect the new NICE guidance [[NG126](#)] for the management of women experiencing an ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage.

Protecting women and babies with anti-D Immunoglobulin

This leaflet is being reviewed and is currently unavailable.

Blood Groups and Red Cell Antibodies in Pregnancy

This leaflet remains available online as there is additional information regarding the significance of red cell antibodies in pregnancy.

This caveat has been added to the website to reflect NICE guidance "This NHSBT leaflet follows the existing British Society for Haematology guidance. Please note that NICE guidelines; Ectopic Pregnancy and Miscarriage [[NG126](#) April 2019], give different advice regarding prophylactic anti-D for management of miscarriage and threatened miscarriage and Abortion Care [[NG140](#) September 2019] give different advice for medical termination of pregnancy."

[PBM patient information leaflets](#)

Anne Davidson, Education Lead - Patient Blood Management Practitioner Team

Red Cell Immunohaematology accreditation status available on the Hospitals and Science website

The RCI UKAS accreditation status has been published on the Hospitals and Science website to make it available to Hospital Blood Bank managers during their individual inspections.

All information regarding RCI activities that may be required by a Hospital Blood Bank when completing an annual appraisal of the quality and performance of RCI as a referral service has been included in appendix 3 of the [RCI User Guide](#). This is also available on the Hospitals and Science website.

By providing this information online RCI is better able to ensure that the information available for Hospital users at the time of inspection is correct and up to date.

[UKAS status and MHRA licencing information](#)

Tracey Tomlinson, Head of Laboratory - RCI Colindale

Updates on outstanding National Comparative Audit reports

The progress with the outstanding reports is:

2018 Audit of FFP/cryo use in children and neonates

Analysis has been extremely complicated due to the nature of the data collected, but we are making good progress and will issue the report as soon as we can. An interim report with your site results was issued in December 2018.

2018 Audit of the management of major haemorrhage

The audit report is largely finished, and we are just awaiting final comments from members of the project group. The report and slideshow should be available at the end of January.

2018 Audit of maternal anaemia

The obstetricians are making good progress with report writing and will issue the report as soon as we can. An interim report with your site results was issued in August 2019.

We are now designing the Spring 2020 audit which will look at the management of anaemia in children undergoing elective surgery. More details and invitations to enrol will be sent out later this month.

John Grant-Casey - Programme Manager, National Comparative Audit

The HEV tick box will be disabled on OBOS by 27 January 2020

All components manufactured from UK donations are now tested for HEV; we are therefore, disabling the HEV tick box within OBOS.

As we transition to UK plasma self-sufficiency, we will be adjusting our IT systems, particularly in relation to HEV testing results, so we can continue to process your OBOS orders and EDN files.

Please note:

- EDN files will still transmit HEV testing results so no changes to your LIMS are required.
- We will remove the HEV negative requirement from active standing orders on 26 January 2020.
- Do not reactivate any old standing orders which have ended before 26 January 2020

If you have any queries, please contact your Hospital Customer Services Manager
Craig Wilkes, Lead Specialist - Process Improvement, Commercial & Customer
Service

**The Update is produced each month by Hospital Customer Services on behalf
of NHS Blood and Transplant**

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