



Blood and Transplant

The Update for March 2020

Do you want to take our blood centre tour?

There's no need to book and wait for a face-to-face tour because now, you can [take a video tour](#), from the comfort of your computer or laptop.

The video has a lift menu so you can move around the floors visiting each department, following the journey of a donation from when it arrives at a centre, as it progresses through testing and processing, and is finally distributed to hospitals.

You'll gain an overview of our organisation, an insight into the workings of our laboratories and learn about the functions of a blood centre.

Melanie Harper, Educational Delivery Manager - OWD

Referring urgent samples to RCI where you require results in less than 5 working days

When referring samples to RCI where you require results in less than 5 working days, please telephone your RCI laboratory to discuss your requirements, and alert the laboratory to the incoming sample.

We have had several recent incidents where we haven't received a phone call and delays to patient care have resulted. This request applies to all cases where crossmatched blood is required and all investigations of positive fetomaternal haemorrhage screen.

The call enables our staff to:

- expect your sample
- make enquiries if it hasn't arrived on time
- plan workload to achieve the required turnaround time
- and in some cases, to collect blood from other centres to crossmatch when the specification is difficult to meet.

This is especially important outside core hours when boxes containing non-urgent samples will not be opened.

The contact details for our RCI laboratories is available on the back of our request forms and on the [RCI page](#) of the Hospitals and Sciences website.

Tracey Tomlinson, Head of Laboratory - RCI Colindale

Please destroy copies of the 'Will my child need a plasma transfusion?' patient information leaflet

We are withdrawing this leaflet due to the change in SaBTO guidance about plasma provision coming into effect. The [Fresh Frozen Plasma and Cryoprecipitate leaflet](#) is now appropriate for both adults and children requiring a plasma or cryoprecipitate transfusion.

Anne Davidson, Education Lead - Patient Blood Management Practitioner Team

Changing the way RCI ABO incompatible (ABOi) titre investigations are tested and reported from 4 May 2020

We have reviewed the way we test and report ABOi titre investigations. The aim of the review was to standardise the ABOi titre methodology used within the 8 RCI laboratories and to take into consideration the recommendations made by the National External Quality Assurance Scheme (NEQAS). The panel performing the review included RCI laboratory staff and managers, NHSBT Consultant haematologists and a Hospital Transplant Consultant Lead.

Following the review we will be changing the way ABOi titre investigations are tested and reported from 4 May.

There are multiple advantages to moving to a single standardised method. This includes the following:

- Improved ability for testing laboratories to compare the titre results obtained in order to maintain accuracy and quality of the process (improved inter-laboratory reproducibility)
- Improves ability for transplant centres to compare transplant protocols used at different Hospitals when RCI is used to provide the ABOi titre results (important when assessing the immunological risk associated with ABOi transplantation and the requirement for pre-transplant antibody removal).
- Greater resiliency and contingency within NHSBT to be able to ensure continuity of service.
- Simplification of the results and reports provided by RCI.

The impact of the change will depend on which RCI laboratory currently performs the testing for your hospital. Your blood bank will be able to provide you with the name of your RCI referral laboratory.

In order to allow you to prepare for the change RCI has performed some comparison studies to allow you to assess the impact that the change will have on the titre endpoint that we will report following the change. The expected effect that this will have on the titre result compared to our current method is provided in the tables below.

Table 1 Example for **IgM** ABOi titre

Testing Lab	Example for IgM ABOi titre*	
	Current result	Future result**
Birmingham, Colindale, Newcastle, Leeds, Sheffield, (Barnsley), Tooting	1/4	1/8
	1/8	1/16
	1/16	1/32
	1/32	1/64
	1/64	1/128
	1/128	1/256
	1/256	1/512
Filton (Bristol)	No change	

* ABOi titres are tested using doubling dilutions therefore the results reported will be one dilution higher

** Based on comparison testing using NEQAS (National External Quality Assurance Scheme) results over the last 4 exercises

Table 2 Example for **IgG** ABOi titre

Testing Lab	Example for IgG ABOi titre*	
	Current result	Future result**
Birmingham, Newcastle	1/4	1/8
	1/8	1/16
	1/16	1/32
	1/32	1/64
	1/64	1/128
	1/128	1/256
	1/256	1/512
Colindale, Filton (Bristol), Leeds, Sheffield, (Barnsley), Tooting	No change	

* ABOi titres are tested using doubling dilutions therefore the results reported will be one dilution higher for Birmingham and Newcastle

** Based on comparison testing using NEQAS (National External Quality Assurance Scheme) results over the last 4 exercises

The format of the report will also change for samples processed at Leeds or Sheffield RCI Laboratories. In the new style report the titre results will be laid out in a table as shown in figure 1.

O RhD positive C-c+E-e+K-					
Red Cell Antibody Screen		Negative			
Red Cell Antibody Status					
Type	Specificity	Technique	Quantification IU/mL or Titre		Sample Type
Allo	IgG Anti-B	Bio-Rad IAT	Titre	128	Plasma
Allo	IgM Anti-B	Direct agglutination technique	Titre	128	Plasma

For clinical questions regarding this change please email Fiona Regan, fiona.regan@nhsbt.nhs.uk, Clinical Director for Diagnostics, and for laboratory questions please email Tracey Tomlinson, tracey.tomlinson@nhsbt.nhs.uk, Head of Lab RCI Colindale.

Tracey Tomlinson, Head of Laboratory - RCI Colindale

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

NHSBT.customerservice@nhsbt.nhs.uk

0208 201 3107