

COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Clinical Trial Q & A

Question	Response
<p>What is convalescent plasma (“CP”)?</p>	<p>CP is plasma donated by people who have recovered from a particular virus (in this case COVID-19) and whose plasma contains antibodies to that virus.</p> <p>The antibodies present in the donor plasma may, in theory, support the patient’s immune response to recover from the virus.</p>
<p>How effective is CP in general and COVID-19 specifically?</p>	<p>CP has been used as experimental treatment for coronaviruses in small numbers of patients with COVID-19 and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). It has similarly been used for other infections such as Ebola and influenza. While results have been promising it has not been proven to be beneficial.</p> <p>The safety and effectiveness of CP needs to be confirmed by robust clinical trials. COVID-19 CP treatment is therefore being managed under the auspices of 2 clinical trials.</p> <p>All clinical trials have to follow a rigorous approval process to protect patients and ensure robust results are generated. We are working closely with the government and all relevant bodies to ensure these procedures are completed as quickly as possible.</p>
<p>Under which clinical trials is COVID-19 CP due to be administered?</p>	<p>There are 2 clinical trials managing the provision of COVID-19 CP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. REMAP-CAP – this clinical trial is looking at treatments including CP for patients with COVID-19 infection who have been admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). 2. RECOVERY– this clinical trial is comparing treatments including CP for patients with COVID-19 infection who have been admitted to hospital.
<p>From which donors is COVID-19 CP being collected?</p>	<p>We can only collect plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 for more than 28 days. This is either 28 days from hospital discharge (for people who went into hospital) and 35 days since diagnosis (for people who were not admitted to hospital).</p> <p>Until recently, only a small number of people were eligible to donate. NHSBT has started to collect plasma from the first recovered donors now and, at the same time, is also working to rapidly increase future capacity.</p> <p>As above, the clinical trials will be looking at the effectiveness of CP across a range of neutralising antibody titre levels.</p> <p>NHSBT will primarily contact potential donors through data from NHS partners. People can register an interest to donate through NHSBT’s website at: https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/how-you-can-help/convalescent-plasma-clinical-trial/</p>

<p>What planning is NHSBT undertaking?</p>	<p>NHSBT is planning infrastructure changes now.</p> <p>By planning beforehand, whilst the clinical trials are underway, we will be able to move more rapidly into providing COVID-19 CP as a standard treatment if the clinical trials prove it is beneficial.</p>
<p>Through which hospitals are the clinical trials being conducted?</p>	<p>More sites are joining the studies, so this is constantly changing. More information can be found on the trial websites: https://www.remapcap.org/participating-sites https://www.recoverytrial.net/</p> <p>Sites will receive training (delivered by NHSBT's Clinical Trials Unit (CTU)) before the CP trial arm is opened.</p>
<p>Can my hospital express an interest in participating in the clinical trials?</p>	<p>Yes, hospital teams can express an interest in participating.</p> <p>Please see the trial websites for more details.</p>
<p>Can I order COVID-19 CP through OBOS?</p>	<p>At present, COVID-19 CP is only available to hospitals participating in the clinical trials and specific supply arrangements are in place for this. Sites in which the trial has been opened to randomise to COVID-19 CP will be able to order the component via OBOS.</p> <p>If the clinical trials prove that COVID-19 CP is beneficial and it becomes standard treatment then NHSBT will make the necessary changes to enable the component to be ordered more widely through OBOS. We will provide all relevant information to hospitals in this event.</p>
<p>Should hospital colleagues be identifying staff and patients who have had COVID-19?</p>	<p>We are keen to recruit donors who tested positive for COVID-19 and have now recovered. Please encourage them to register via the website. https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/how-you-can-help/convalescent-plasma-clinical-trial/</p>

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