

Briefing for Transfusion Practitioners

7th December 2020

A call for your support with the National Convalescent Plasma Collection Programme for England

Dear Colleague

Background

As you may be aware NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is leading the national programme, on behalf of the Government, to collect COVID-19 convalescent plasma to supply the RECOVERY and REMAP-CAP clinical trials. If the trials show patient benefit, NHSBT will supply hospitals more widely.

NHSBT is urgently appealing for more people to donate plasma to support the national response to the second wave of coronavirus infections. We are very aware that you and your teams are facing multiple challenges, but this programme could be a significant therapeutic intervention to save lives. The time window is tight and we need the support of everyone in the NHS to do everything we can to build up convalescent plasma stocks.

The challenge – we urgently need more high titre plasma donors

High titre (the highest levels of antibodies) as a percentage of all plasma units collected is on a downward trend and demand is outstripping supply.

We know that hospitalised males (from BAME communities aged 35 but below 65 and white males aged 50 but below 65) produce the biggest yield of high titre plasma and we are focused on recruiting donors from these groups.


A call for your support

The purpose of this briefing is to request your support with encouraging recovering Covid-19 patients to consider donating plasma. Please would you:

- Share this briefing with your team and key staff involved with Covid-19 patients
- Encourage the inclusion of patient information leaflets on plasma donation in the Covid-19 patient discharge process. Printed copies have been sent to you and your Communications Teams and digital copies shared with the Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation

A range of convalescent plasma marketing materials including social media materials, posters, web materials and videos are available on the NHSBT website [here](#) for hospital teams to access.

If any of your teams require additional print or digital convalescent plasma marketing materials, please contact the Convalescent Plasma NHS Engagement Team:



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Thank you for your continued support. The NHSBT team are incredibly grateful for the support received from across the healthcare sector in helping us deliver this critical programme of work.

Yours sincerely,
David Brack

Partnership Lead: Convalescent Plasma Programme
Donor Experience
NHS Blood and Transplant