

**TO: TRANSFUSION LABORATORY MANAGERS, TRANSFUSION PRACTITIONERS,  
CONSULTANT HAEMATOLOGISTS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSION,  
HOSPITAL TRANSFUSION COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**20 January 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

**NHSBT TO RESUME COLLECTION OF COVID-19 CONVALESCENT PLASMA (“CCP”)**

We wanted to update you on our ongoing plans for the collection of COVID-19 convalescent plasma.

Following the decision to pause transfusions under the REMAP-CAP and RECOVERY clinical trials, we paused the collection of CCP. After further discussions with the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) we wanted to let you know that we will be resuming CCP collection from this weekend.

**The key reasons for this are:**

1. The RECOVERY and REMAP-CAP clinical trials are continuing to analyse their data. We therefore need to ensure that we continue to build up CCP stocks if their analysis indicates benefit from CCP in any defined patient subgroups.
2. International trials are testing if there is patient benefit from earlier transfusion of CCP, particularly before people get to hospital and in the elderly or those with weak immune systems. Again, if this is the case then we want to ensure that we have sufficient stocks to support future demand.
3. The current COVID-19 infection rates mean that this is the optimum time to maximise the collection of high antibody titre CCP from people recovering from COVID-19. As there is a limited window in which we can collect CCP it has been agreed that we will continue to collect – and stockpile – as much CCP as possible at this time.

**ACTION REQUEST**

- Please could we ask you to continue to hold on to any unused CCP.
- This communication is to inform you about continuing drive to maximise the collection of high antibody titre CCP. No other specific actions are required at this time.

It is important to stress that resumption of our CCP collection programme does not signify a return to transfusions using CCP. Both RECOVERY and REMAP-CAP remain paused and all CCP transfusions have stopped.

If you have any queries on this information, please speak with your local Hospital Customer Services Manager or Patient Blood Management Practitioner.

Kind Regards,

Dr Lise Estcourt

*Consultant Haematologist and Director of NHSBT Clinical Trials Unit*

Alastair Hunter

*NHSBT Plasma Components Manager*