



## Blood and Transplant

### The Update for January 2021

#### **The rollout of new style of security tag for all transport containers is delayed**

A decision has been made to delay the rollout. We will keep you posted.

Rhian Edwards - Hospital Customer Services Manager

#### **Transfusion aide memoire: essentials for bedside transfusions for health care professionals**

An aide memoire covering the essentials for bedside transfusions for health care professionals has been produced collaboratively by SHOT, NBTC and RCPATH.

Please feel free to use this document in addition to your local policies. It is an aide memoire and not designed to be a training document. Individuals not trained in transfusion should not be performing transfusion related tasks.

The aide memoire is available from the [Emergency Planning section on the working groups page](#) on the JPAC website.

NBTC Emergency Planning Working Group, SHOT and RCPATH

#### **Cancelled face to face practical training / Under the Microscope: Practical Introduction to Transfusion Science course**

- Face to face practical training

Following the announcement of the latest national lockdown, all scientific and clinical training practical sessions have been cancelled up to the end of March 2021.

Online training sessions will continue as planned. Practical sessions are a key element of our programmes and support the already delivered virtual training – we intend to reschedule.

A decision on whether the sessions can be rescheduled from April 2021 will be taken mid February 2021 and we will keep you informed via The Update.

- Under the Microscope: Practical Introduction to Transfusion Science course

The new format of our entry level transfusion science course launched in August 2020, well timed to support the continued delivery of this vital training to NHS colleagues during the pandemic.

The content and blended delivery has been well received. The length of time between study blocks has been reviewed and reduced based on delegate feedback. This change in course duration will be implemented for teaching dates from April 2021.

The practical sessions remain an important part of the programme and we look forward to reinstating them when we can do so.

Please [book](#) to attend this or any other courses, including joining our waiting list.

Ruth Evans, OD Manager - Scientific and Clinical Training

### **Revised neonatal and paediatric bookmarks**

The [paediatric](#) and [neonatal](#) bookmarks, including the [Laboratory best practice](#) have been revised in line with the [2020 Addendum](#) to the BSH Guidelines for Transfusion for Fetuses, Neonates and Older Children.

The bookmarks are available to order on the [distribution hub](#) and can also be [downloaded](#) from the Hospitals and Science website Education page.

Jo Bark - PBM Practitioner

### **LearnBloodTransfusion updated to remove unsupported Flash content**

Following the withdrawal of official support for Adobe Flash software, on 31 December 2020, all Flash content has been removed from the modules within the learnbloodtransfusion (LBT) e-learning programme.

The new version of the modules are also available on learnPro (this requires organisational registration), e-LfH (all staff, except those employed by independent hospitals / providers can register for access), and on ESR (staff can access via MyESR if this is used by their employer).

If you would like to access learnbloodtransfusion please contact us at [nhsbtCustomerService@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:nhsbtCustomerService@nhsbt.nhs.uk)

Anne Davidson - Education Lead, PBM Practitioner Team

## **Our new Blood Assist app: transfusion administration guidance at the bedside**

Blood Assist is a smartphone and web-based app which summarises key guidelines and recommendations from SHOT, BSH and SaBTO and is designed for use, at the bedside, at the time of transfusion.

The smartphone version of the app will be available by the end of January 2021. Please look out for future updates confirming the release date.

See the web version at [www.bloodassist.co.uk](http://www.bloodassist.co.uk)

Anne Davidson - Education Lead, PBM Practitioner Team

## **Programme for the National Comparative Audit of Blood Transfusion remains suspended due to COVID-19**

The pandemic continues to affect our timetable for the National Comparative Audit of Blood Transfusion, and so the programme remains suspended. We anticipate we may be able to re-start in May, but we will keep you updated as the situation develops.

In the meantime, we are working to report the 2 outstanding audits: the 2018 audit of the use of FFP & Cryo in children & neonates and the 2019 re-audit of the medical use of blood.

John Grant-Casey - Programme manager

## **Action card for Major incident Transfusion Co-ordinator role**

This action card provides transfusion support in a major incident.

It outlines the role of any trained identified individual in co-ordinating timely and safe transfusion support during a major incident. The role can be filled by a Transfusion Practitioner / Patient Blood Manager / Biomedical Scientist / Haematology Doctor or any member of trained staff.

The role is designed to support liaison between clinical and laboratory areas and includes emergency blood issue, regulatory compliance, blood sample handling, blood collection and optimal use of blood.

The card is available in the [Emergency planning working group](#) on the JPAC website.

NBTC Emergency Planning Working Group

## **Template SOP for volunteer and non clinical staff providing transfusion support in the Nightingale hospitals**

This template outlines the processes for collection of blood components by volunteers and non clinical staff supporting the Nightingales.

The document can be used as a template standard operating procedure to set up similar site specific practices across the other Nightingales in England.

It was prepared by the Barts & Royal London Transfusion team in the first lockdown in 2020 to provide transfusion support for the Nightingale based at the Excel Centre in London.

Go to this template under the [Emergency planning working group](#) on the JPAC website.

Transfusion Team from Barts and the Royal London Hospital

### **Instructions for referring suspected COVID-19 samples to RCI for testing**

We'd like to remind you how samples known or suspected to be COVID-19 should be sent to our labs:

- Contact the lab first
- Label the sample(s) and request forms “high risk”
- Seal the sample(s) properly, place in a sealed plastic bag with an absorbent pad, and in a protective container such as a sample box or plastic tub
- Packaging must comply with [UN3373](#)

[Read more in our communication from 8 April](#)

Mark Williams, Head of RCI

### **Online Blood Ordering System (OBOS): version 8.4.2 release on 14 February 2021**

The latest version will be available on the live system on 14 February 2021 and was updated on the training system 20 January 2021.

This version contains minor changes and bug fixes with no major changes to functionality.

All changes are detailed in the release notes available on the [OBOS page](#) of the Hospitals & Science website.

If you have any questions, please contact your Customer Service Manager or email  
OBOS@nhsbt@nhs.uk

Craig Wilkes - Lead Specialist, Process Improvement

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

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